Daily Report

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Yugoslavia

International—TANJUG reports that in response to some news agency reports that a U.S. Navy cruiser was "threatened" by Yugoslav Air Force planes, the Yugoslav Army General Staff Information Service announced: "Not a single aircraft of the Yugoslav Air Force has flown beyond the airspace above the territorial waters" of the FRY.

In an interview with an Italian paper, according to AFP, Dobrica Cosic, FRY president, stated: "The only solution for Bosnia is cantonization, everything else is just rhetoric."

According to TANJUG, Vladislav Jovanovic, head of the Yugoslav CSCE delegation and new foreign affairs minister, said: "The failure by the hardliners to expel Yugoslavia from the CSCE parliament is a signal to begin to consider the possibility of defeating the blockade through parliamentary means, i.e. within the framework of parliamentary cooperation primarily with the countries which at the meeting in Budapest did not succumb to pressures by those who advocated Yugoslavia's expulsion."

Bosnia-Hercegovina

After discussions with Lord Carrington, chairman of the EC Conference on Yugoslavia, Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, stated: "We have found some good signs that we are going to make an advancement. We are ready for an unconditional and long-lasting ceasefire," London PRESS ASSOCIATION reports. In response to the "bombardment" of Gorazde, an EC statement said: "These brutal and indiscriminate attacks upon defenceless civilians are wholly contrary to the basic humanitarian precepts of international law."

Romania

ROMPRES reports that during a news conference, Teodor Melescanu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs secretary of state, stated that "the cease-fire in Dniester region has been observed until now in the whole conflict area, except for the town of Tighina where the guardsmen units refused to obey the orders and continued their aggressive actions against that town's police station." He also commented on the nomination of the new Yugoslav prime minister and government, saying he "appreciated that the new elements in the political life of the new Yugoslavia were of the nature to relaunch the dialogue and to open prospects for the cessation of the armed conflict."

Czechoslovakia

Bratislava radio reports that during a speech to the Slovak Parliament, Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar commented on relations with the Czech Republic, saying he was "glad that the elections meant the end of the former two-faced policy of the Czech Republic." Elaborating on the "two-faced" Czech policy, he said: "On the one hand there was the face of a kind of a father figure," but "on the other hand there was a policy of an aggressive attack on Slovakia and its representatives when Slovakia as a whole was presented as fascist, anti-Semite, as one striving for a split, as being separatists, nationalists, and I do not know how many more such adjectives were attached to it!"

Bulgaria

BTA reports that public transport workers went on strike on 15 July and "blocked traffic in Sofia." The strike was supported by the Podkrepa Labor Confederation and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria. In a telephone interview with Sofia radio, Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov termed the strike a "blockade," and he later stated in an address to the nation, covered by BTA, that "the government is firmly resolved to prevent chaos in this country."

Kosovar President Meets With Meksi, Berisha

Economic Cooperation Discussed

AU1407200192 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Report by Zamira Koleci]

[Text] Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi received Mr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Republic of Kosovo, at the premier's office this morning. Rexhep Uka, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food; Alfred Serreqi, minister of foreign affairs; Ilir Manushi, minister of construction, housing, and environmental protection; Prime Minister Bujar Bukoshi from the Republic of Kosovo; and others took part in the official talks. During the conversation, Prime Minister Meksi stressed his government's powerful support for the cause of Kosovo's independence in international organizations and before the public of the whole world. President Rugova, pointing out that this was the first time that he had met the members of the new government, wished Prime Minister Meksi and his cabinet every success in performing their duties during the transition period.

Talks then concentrated on creating opportunities for cooperation between Albania and Kosovo in all fields, and on encouraging joint economic activity that will precede new developments. There was a long discussion about the creation of a joint coordinating commission that will initiate cooperation and will later look for new opportunities of this kind. Mr. Meksi stressed among other things that this commission will be the first fundamental step activating economic ties between Albania and Kosovo and will act as a filter, with the commission in the mother country, recommending honest and able people for economic and mercantile activities. It will also make it possible to avoid excessive red tape by making fast and immediately realizable decisions. Mr. Rugova, supporting these ideas, said that the Albanians of Kosovo will take pleasure in working with Albania, partly because of the fact that production is now paralyzed in Kosovo, as a result, among other things, of the sanctions against Serbia. Our experts will experience a sense of professional satisfaction in helping specialists in Albania.

In the course of the discussions, members of the Albanian Government suggested specific fields of cooperation, such as the road network, tourism, the energy industry, and agriculture, stressing the need to create joint enterprises. There was also discussion of bringing experts from Kosovo to Albania, especially university teachers in the fields of philosophy, jurisprudence, and sociology, subjects that were totally politicized in our faculties. The Kosovar side spoke about the need for more information between our two countries and for communications in the Albanian area. Agricultural cooperation assumed a special space in the talks. The talks dwelt with the psychology of our peasants, who are presently disorganized and confused. President Rugova spoke about the experience of private Kosovar farmers and the procurement of agricultural and dairy products. He praised their experience and expressed a desire to help our farmers in practical ways.

At the end of the talks, it was agreed that the Tirana-based coordinating commission for cooperation will be created before the end of July, and that prospects for joint projects with small investments in construction, tourism, the energy industry, and agriculture will then be considered.

Presidents Call For Kosovo Talks

AU1407185892 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Interview with President Sali Berisha and Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova by unidentified correspondent in Tirana on 14 July—recorded]

[Text] [Berisha] I can say that the meeting with Mr. Rugova was a fraternal one. We analyzed the present situation and developments in our region and the great danger they hold for the Albanian nation as a whole, and especially Albanians who live on their own soil in Yugoslavia. We observe that the Albanian cause and the Albanian cause in Kosovo has moved to a higher level and has assumed a new dimension. In practice, the international community realizes that this problem must be solved through talks and a dialogue observed and guaranteed by a third party. I am convinced it would succeed because the Milosevic's artificial arguments do not hold water since they conflict with the will of the people in Kosovo, with democratic forces in Montenegro to some extent, and with the principles of Helsinki. I think the international community will bear in mind that Milosevic's attempts to preserve the Yugoslav Federation by force led to the greatest war and tragedy that Europe has experienced since the war. I hope that lessons will be learned from this, and that Europe will not allow another federation similarly created by force to continue warring and to be a source of wars. Thus, I hope we are heading toward a acceptable solution.

[Correspondent] Mr. Rugova, would you like to add to what the president has said?

[Rugova] I agree with Mr. Berisha that the Kosovo issue is assuming a new dimension. We saw that at the conference of EEC ministers, then at the Council of Europe, and now in Helsinki.

We insist on the independence of Kosovo and a solution to this issue. Of course, talks on Kosovo can now be expected to start, and we should be prepared. We have agreed on further steps. There are different options for a solution for Kosovo, from proposals for an autonomous status to independence, and we should not prejudge them as hostility toward the Albanians. I can say that these issues, including the question of Albanian unification or integration, have been placed on the discussion table and we are ready to put them forward. We also

talked about the situation in Albania and the reforms being undertaken. Of course they will be difficult, but they will certainly bear fruit. We do not want to scare people, but the reforms will assure greater development and progress in Albania. It is encouraging that people have resumed work. We do not mean to use the old slogan here, but people are actually working in Albania.

Ethnic Albanian Leader Arrives in Tirana

LD1507151792 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1430 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Pristina, July 15 (TANJUG)—Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of ethnic Albanians in the Serbian province of Kosovo-Metohija, on Tuesday [14 July] visited the Albanian capital Tirana where he was given a welcome usually reserved for heads of state, the Albanian-language Kosovo daily BUJKU writes on Wednesday. The paper, published in Kosovo's capital Pristina, says Rugova, "in his capacity as president of the Republic of Kosovo", met with Albania's top officials: President Sali Berisha and Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi. Rugova was accompanied by Bujar Bukoshi, "the head of the Kosovo government", the paper added.

Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo-Metohija are a national minority in the Yugoslav republic of Serbia and enjoy all rights guaranteed to minorites by the Yugoslav constitution and international documents. Ethnic Albanians, however, insist on a nation status and their own republic, and refuse to take part in the administration of the province.

Bujku says Rugova and Albanian officials discussed cooperation in all fields and decided to set up a joint coordination commission whose seat would be in Tirana. The paper quotes the Albanian president as saying after the meeting with Rugova the Albanian question in Kosovo had obtained a new dimension and that, according to international factors, it should be dealt with in a "dialogue of both sides, supervised by a third party."

Rugova insisted on an independent status for Kosovo. There are various forms of pressure and various proposals for resolving the question—from an autonomous status and independent state to the unification of all Albanians, said Rugova. All these options should be considered at the negotiating table, he added.

Ethnic Albanians have recently turned down three invitations for talks extended by Serbian Premier Radoman Bozovic, as well as an invitation for round table political talks organized by Belgrade university students. The university forum, attended by many Serbian political parties, has held three rounds of talks so far. Sources in the democratic alliance of Kosovo, the organization which rallies the majority of ethnic Albanians in the province, say that Rugova returned to Pristina this morning to head a delegation for talks with a team of the Yugoslavia peace conference. The talks are scheduled for later in the day in Pristina. The visiting delegation will be headed by Vice-Chairman of the Yugoslavia Conference Thierry de Beauce.

Yugoslav Guards Cross Border, Seize Cattle

AU1507193692 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] At 1945 on 13 July in the vicinity of Pyramids Two and Three near the Hot-Shkoder border post, a four-man Yugoslav border patrol several times fired a hail of bullets in the direction of the Albanian territory when some inhabitants of the village of Hot were grazing cattle nearby. The patrol was joined by eight more soldiers. All 12 soldiers advanced several meters into Albanian territory, seizing two cows and two calves from the peasants, and withdrawing once again to Yugoslav territory. Immediately after the gunshots, the deputy commander of the border post and some Albanian border guards went to the scene of the incident, and took measures to evacuate the inhabitants in order to avoid any possible confrontation with the Yugoslav soldiers.

The Albanian side insisted on a meeting of the two local border commissions to the Yugoslav side in order to explain the circumstances of the incident in more detail, and a relevant letter was sent condemning these events, that constituted a serious border incident.

Defense Ministry Refutes 'Illegal Organization'

AU1507161792 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1330 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] In its 14 July program, the television reported a statement by a self-styled organizing commission for the Union of Reserve Military Cadres [Bashkimi i Kuadrove Ushtarake ne Rezerve, BKUR], with the title: We Support the Legal Demands of Prematurely Retired Servicemen. The deputy defense minister has explained that the defense minister has not approved the BKUR according to regulations. Under these circumstances, all statements and propaganda on behalf of this illegal organization are unconstitutional and do not serve the construction and operation of the law-governed state and its democratic institutions. The statements by the self-styled BKUR contain the unfair interpretations of persons and servicemen who want to hinder military reforms. Prompted by this action by the television, the Defense Minstry, demands that this institution broadcast statements by legally approved associations and not statements by self-proclaimed organizations such as the BKUR.

Public Transport Workers Strike For More Pay

AU1507102092 Sofia BTA in English 0643 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 15 (BTA)—Public transport drivers in Sofia went on effective strike at 04:00 hrs. This morning. transport workers appeared at the depots but did not take out their buses, trams and trolleys, the transport controller on duty announced on the national radio. He said that only five trolleys and about 25 buses are operated this morning. Yesterday Sofia's Mayor Aleksandur Yanchulev announced that about 15 private buses had been hired to ensure transport. However, they are not enough to service Sofianites.

The drivers' strike is supported by the leaderships of the two major trade union amalgamations - the Podkrepa Labor Confederation and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria.

The drivers insist on a rise in their wages.

The national radio and television cite telephone calls made by Sofianites who declare themselves to be against the strikers' demands. In their opinion the drivers' demand for a wage rise is immoral having in mind that the pay of physicians and teachers is much less.

The trade union PODKREPA paper carries a piece by Asen Michkovski, M.P. for the Union of Democratic Forces, who is close to the Podkrepa Labor Confederation. In his view yesterday's police action in Bistritsa can make more people join the strike and worsen the situation. Yesterday the police vacated the Bistritsa Residence occupied some months ago by Podkrepa activists.

Yesterday the ruling UDF [Union of Democratic Forces] coalition came out with a political declaration taking a stand against the policy pursued by the leaders of the two trade union amalgamations which, the declaration says, is aimed at expanding the strike wave and toppling the government and parliament.

Sofia Streets Blocked

AU1507162392 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by trade union correspondent Petur Donchev]

[Text] Today's strike actions in the Sofia City transportation system, organized by the Federation of Transport Workers affiliated with the Podkrepa Labor Confederation and the Alliance of Transport Workers Trade Unions affiliated with the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, have unfortunately blocked traffic in Sofia. Not a single tram car has left the depot, and only three of the 111 trolleybuses are in service. The situation is almost the same in the bus transportation companies. I received this information from the trade unions—the two confederations have set up joint strike committees—and it was later confirmed by the Sofia City Municipality.

The road traffic police made great efforts to clear the jams at crossroads like Orlov Most, which built up because of the larger numbers of private cars, and the traffic flow improved comparatively quickly, but increased traffic and further problems are expected at these junctions when the working day ends.

I learned from the Sofia City Municipality offices that the buses hired from private companies will accept city transportation tickets. In addition, the Council of Ministers Press Center informed me that 10 vehicles, including two minibuses, are running with headlights switched on along the route from the Russian Memorial to Knyazhevo from 1400 to 2200 tonight.

Strike Described as 'Blockade'

AU1507124492 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov by announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] We have just listened to details about the Sofia City public transport workers' strike together with Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov, who is at the Council of Ministers headquarters, and with whom I have a direct telephone connection now.

[Dimitrov] Good afternoon. Things are really as serious as you described them in your radio report. I would like to point out that the strikers have not guaranteed the necessary satisfactory minimum transport for the citizens. We are constantly receiving data on threats against and pressure on people, namely public transport workers who are willing to go to work.

Under such circumstances, I feel obliged to stress that we are confronted with actions that are not within the framework of the law, and I think that the word "blockade" was correctly used in one of the radio reports because it is hardly a question of a strike any longer, it is a blockade. The attempt to block Sofia traffic is not something that the government can accept, as you should understand. This inevitably leads us to reassess some of our stands, as the relevant ministries and departments are convinced. As a matter of fact, we are currently drafting measures to guarantee a certain alleviation of the transport situation today. As of 1400 all automobiles belonging to ministries and official departments will be released for public transport and may be used by citizens for the price of public transport tickets. They will serve the distant residential districts that were mentioned in the reports in particular. For the time being, we are preparing a program to cope with the situation in the coming days. I would like to assure the citizens that the blockade in Sofia will not continue tomorrow. I am simply stating that there will be no blockade in Sofia tomorrow. The government is preparing its measures and I am convinced that I will be in a position to announce the details on national television tonight.

I would like to stress once more that what is happening right now is very far removed from a strike because, as I already pointed out, attempts are being made to prevent those who are willing to work from doing their jobs. Hence, we are confronted with a blockade, rather than with a strike.

Naturally, the government is conducting its investigations and those responsible for the situation will be obliged to answer, as is the rule.

Union Leader Explains Strike

AU1507122492 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Interview with Mr. Angelov, chairman of the Federation of Transport Workers—a branch of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation—by Petur Donchev at Podkrepa Labor Confederation headquarters in Sofia—live]

[Text] [Donchev] Mr. Angelov, what is going to happen now? The strike was declared as an open-ended strike and we have no information about any invitation for negotiations. This is important considering that only negotiations are likely to solve the problem rather than the strike, which is only a protest action.

[Angelov] As early as in February 1992 we expressed our willingness for constructive talks. We have never declined negotiations, we are waiting for the proposal on negotiations, which should be submitted by the Sofia City Municipality and its representatives.

[Donchev] Nevertheless, you are well aware of the fact that the public is not well disposed toward the transportation workers, especially since this morning after the whole city was blocked.

[Angelov] We are aware of all these facts. Unfortunately, that is the situation. In our opinion, this results from a lack of information. Figures are constantly mentioned, figures, and only figures, are cited. However, there is work behind the figures. No one has explained the fact that the wages that the government is talking about should apply to a month and a half of work, which the transportation workers actually did within only a month. This means that our colleagues are working 240, 260, and even 280 hours a month in excess of their regular working hours. It means that they are entitled to wages for one month and a half. Some people take the liberty of citing inaccurate figures because the amount of the wages in itself sounds high, but the amount of labor for which these wages are paid is not specified.

[Donchev] Well, considering that we are talking during a news program, we do not have much time to discuss all this. Hence, is the strike expected to continue?

[Angelov] We expect the relevant authority, namely the City Council, to propose new wages that we can discuss.

[Donchev] All right. This means that we should ask the Sofia City Council for its view, namely we should talk to Deputy Mayor Mr. Wilhelm Kraus. That is all I can say for the time being.

Dimitrov Denies 'Lockout'

AU1607075592 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov by trade union correspondent Petur Donchev at the Council of Ministers Press Center in Sofia—live]

[Excerpts] [Donchev] I will start by repeating what was announced in previous broadcasts, namely that, unfortunately, the strike actions by the Podkrepa and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria [KNSB] transportation unions have blocked traffic in Sofia. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov is sitting opposite me in the Council of Ministers Press Center.

Mr. Dimitrov, a strike is an extreme measure and it should be conducted on the basis of individual initiative without hindering those who want to work. In addition, it should be conducted in a restrained manner and in conformity with the Law on Collective Labor Disputes. You wanted to make a statement, and we would like to hear it.

[Dimitrov] This strike evidently does not satisfy any of the requirements you mentioned. This is not surprising if one bears in mind that it was preceded by an escalation of demands, which, in any event, showed that the trade unions, or rather the trade union leaders, have no desire to reach an agreement, as is usual in any strike. This is a strike that has quite different, non-union goals.

Whether this is so or not, Sofia is indeed in a blockade situation, as you pointed out so well, but a stop will be put to this as of tomorrow.

[Donchev] What do you have in mind? Could you please be more specific?

[Dimitrov] Yes. The government, the headquarters that I am establishing in connection with the strike, the control room, and all of us, instead of engaging in something constructive—I mean work constructive for the nation—are now engaged with the strike, and the results are as follows:

Beginning at 0400 tomorrow, buses, including military buses, will be put into service on the bus lines. At the moment, as you have already pointed out, a number of routes have already been organized with over 40 buses, almost 250 minibuses, and 110 cars supplied by individual ministries and departments. All the official vehicles of ministries and departments have been placed at the service of Sofia's citizens, who can use them for the price of a tram ticket. In one way or another we will be able to increase the number of buses tomorrow in order

to meet the transportation needs, more or less. It is clear that we will not be able to cover all the requirements, but we will be able to compensate partially for the damage that the strike is causing. In the final analysis, people will be able to get to work and move around the city.

In connection with the numerous reports that have been received, I would also like to emphasize that drivers or other transportation workers who want to do their jobs have been stopped from doing so, either by psychological pressure or by open threats, not to mention the places where vehicles are preventing persons from leaving their workplaces. In view of all this, I would like to invite all transportation workers who have no intention of attacking the government and parliament and who want to go to work tomorrow to do this. Tomorrow, at the appropriate times, buses will run along the usual routes to pick them up, and measures will certainly be taken so that they need have no fears of being attacked in some way. These buses will be able to take them to their workplaces. If they wish to work, they will be guaranteed the opportunity to do so and their security will be ensured.

[Donchev] You made a number of charges, but today representatives at the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, which is receiving information from the Podkrepa and KNSB strike committees—as they are operating jointly—denied the charges that those who want to work are being pressured. I would now like to ask you if this means that lockout principles are being introduced?

[Dimitrov] At the moment we cannot speak of a lockout. A lockout could happen if, for example, the buses that the strikers refuse to drive are driven by someone else. At the moment, we are not doing this.

Regarding the so-called denials, I think we have heard a lot of talk recently. The people have heads on their shoulders and they can assess things for themselves. I will not venture into any commentary on this subject. I will repeat one thing: Those who wish to do their jobs will be able to do this tomorrow, with full guarantees for their security.

[Donchev] I will conclude by asking if there are any chances of negotiation to end this situation?

[Dimitrov] Of course. Please understand me, talks are possible, of course. We have never refused to talk reasonably with partners who present realistic demands and behave properly. Naturally, you, yourself, will understand that if we sit down at the negotiating table, if they submit conditions that we accept, and then put forward new, greater demands, and so on without end, then, clearly, the talks are hardly likely to produce results. This was the style in which the work has been going on to date, and if we continue in the same way, I do not know whether further talks will be the best means of resolving things. On the other hand, I hope that the situation will gradually change, because I am profoundly convinced that most of the people who have been forced into this disreputable game will gradually realize what really is at stake.

[Donchev] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. This concludes my report from the Council of Ministers.

[Dimitrov] I would just like to stress that any illegal actions will be punished most severely. Today I heard talk that some people intend to beat drivers up to prevent them from transporting citizens. I will remind them of the words of a primary schoolboy, at a moment when the other children threatened to beat him up. He said, eloquently: He who beats someone will be beaten himself!

[Donchev] Very good. I now conclude my report from the Council of Ministers.

[Studio announcer Valeri Mikhaylov] I would like to put one question to Mr. Dimitrov from the studio. In his midday interview on the Khorizont Program, Mr. Dimitrov stated that he will speak on television this evening. Are we to understand that listeners of the Khorizont Program have been the first to hear the position adopted by the government and the measures that it is taking in connection with the strike?

[Dimitrov] Yes, certainly.

[Mikhaylov] Thank you very much.

Dimitrov Addresses Nation

AU1507101492 Sofia BTA in English 2050 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 14 (BTA)—"We are not against the trade unions but we will not allow a handful of ambitious trade union leaders to stake Bulgaria's future," Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov said on national television this evening in an address to the nation. He said that at this particular time strikes will cause losses, chaos, confusion and destabilization, and the price will be paid by all Bulgarians.

The address comes in the wake of a week of protests of medical workers and of unrest among students and teachers. A strike in Sofia's City transport is expected to start tomorrow. There are preparations for strikes in other sectors as well.

According to the prime minister, only those who want to shirk responsibility for their actions in the past stand to gain from strikes.

The prime minister reminded TV audiences that the cabinet has increased the minimum wages, child benefits, the average wages in the state-financed and other spheres. Over 400,000 Bulgarians are engaged in private business. New small-sized businesses have been established, of which 60 per cent are production enterprises. Filip Dimitrov opened a copy of the DUMA daily of the opposition Bulgarian Socialist Party (the former Communists), full of advertisements of goods and services.

"This goes to show that something is happening in the Bulgarian economy and right now the BSP walked out of parliament, the leaders of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions are calling for strikes, the cabinet and the National Bank are being attacked. When we restore order—as we did in Bistritsa—we are accused of arbitrary actions," the prime minister said.

He called on the Bulgarians to show wisdom. "Thank God, we are far from what is going on in Yugoslavia, we have proved we do not go to extremes when we settle our problems," Mr. Dimitrov said. At the end of his address to the nation he said the government is firmly resolved to prevent chaos in this country.

Trade Union Leader Comments

AU1607083092 Sofia BTA in English 2026 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Sofia, July 15 (BTA)—Today Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov announced the government's measures against the transport strike which started in Sofia this morning. Sofia is paralysed but tomorrow this will be ended, he said on the national TV and radio. [passage omitted]

Plamen Darakchiev, leader of the National Trade Union, told TV journalists that the leaders of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation and the KNSB [Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria] are interested in the surge of the strike wave. The KNSB property was confiscated under the property of the Bulgarian Socialist, ex-Communist Party and its satellite organizations act. Yesterday the police freed the Bistritsa Residence building occupied by Podkrepa a few months ago. According to Mr. Darakchiev both trade unions are displeased with the steps seeking responsibility for the national catastrophe and the beginning process of privatization controlled by the parliamentary majority of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS).

A declaration of the National Trade Union, which split from Podkrepa, says that this large-scale action has been instigated by salaried Podkrepa bosses led by Podkrepa leader Dr. Konstantin Trenchev. The National Trade Union is in favour of trade unions which do not rule over society but represents people's interests, the declaration says.

According to Prof. Krustyu Petkov, leader of the KNSB, the government has declared war on Podkrepa. It aims to discredit trade union leaders and drive a wedge between the two amalgamations, he said at a meeting with trade union activists in Khaskovo, southern Bulgaria.

A Podkrepa declaration denied charges that the strike was politically motivated.

Today a small group held a protest in front of the Podkrepa headquarters shouting slogans against the trade union and its leader Dr. Trenchev.

"We support the government's efforts to effect democratic reforms and denounce the transport strike, which is not an expression of trade union but of political demands," says a televised declaration of the Sofia SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] Council.

No trams are moving on Sofia streets, Transport Trade Union leader Atanas Stanev told BTA. According to him, all members of the Podkrepa Transport Workers' Federation and the Union of Transport Trade Unions in Bulgaria have joined the strike. According to the KNSB, 1,400 drivers, non-trade union members, have taken industrial action, too, while almost all maintenance workers are on a token strike.

Police Evict Union Members From State Building

AU1407182392 Sofia BTA in English 1508 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 14 (BTA)—The Bistritsa Residence near Sofia was vacated today after an eight-month occupation by the Podkrepa Labor Confederation. The police have taken control of the building, a cabinet source reported.

The Bistritsa Residence, which housed an international centre for company management, was occupied on December 3, 1991, by trade union activists of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation who claimed the building had been rented out unprofitably to press-baron Robert Maxwell by the former communist government headed by Andrey Lukanov. Trade union leader Konstantin Trenchev said Podkrepa would use the building as an international training centre for trade union activists. He even said Western Europe was ready to finance the project.

At first the state institutions did not react strongly against the occupation. Minister of Justice Svetoslav Luchnikov said he was not familiar with the details. The Prosecutor General's Office and the police shifted the responsibility on each other. Podkrepa took advantage of the lack of a firm position and settled in the building. The Regional Prosecutor's Office instituted preliminary proceedings against Konstantin Trenchev and the "principal occupier" Trayko Etov. They were charged with illegal occupation.

On June 14, Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov sent an official warning to Podkrepa to vacate immediately and voluntarily the illegally occupied state property in Bistritsa, the Council of Ministers' Press Office announced. The cabinet rejected Podkrepa's request that the building be granted to it. The cabinet considers the occupation a gross violation of the law and believes the trade union has no moral right to claim the building because it is inadmissible to gain rights from illegal actions, the letter says.

At its meeting yesterday the cabinet confirmed its position on Podkrepa's illegal actions and approved measures for its immediate eviction from the building.

Today the police raided the building and the occupiers were evicted. They put up no resistance, a reporter of National Radio said from the residence.

SDS 'Categorically' Opposes Trade Unions' Policy

AU1407171692 Sofia BTA in English 1607 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Evgeniya Drumeva report]

[Text] Sofia, July 14 (BTA)—The parties and organizations affiliated with the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) categorically oppose the policy of the leaderships of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria leading to a dangerous escalation of the strike wave, says a political declaration of the ruling coalition circulated today. According to the SDS, the trade union amalgamations leaders "are manipulating members and using their demands to achieve political aims." These actions are of a political nature and aim to topple the legitimate parliament and government. They coincide with the goals of the opposition Bulgarian Socialist Party, the declaration says.

The leaders of the ruling coalition are in favour of settling disputes between the SDS and trade unions "by a constructive dialogue and compromises." As most members of SDS-affiliated parties and organizations have also joined the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, the SDS differentiates ordinary members of the influential trade union from its leader Dr. Konstantin Trenchev and his close aides, the declaration says. It calls for refraining from politically motivated industrial action.

The SDS is the political force capable of leading the country out of the economic catastrophe and its government elected by the parliamentary majority of the SDS and the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms has no alternative, the declaration says.

The political declaration was approved at today's regular meeting of the SDS National Coordinating Council, SDS spokesman Mikhail Nedelchev told journalists. Leader of the United Democratic Center S'oyan Ganev abstained from voting.

The Podkrepa Labor Confederation is the organizer of most strikes underway or in preparation, Deputy Chairman of the National Coordinating Council and floor leader of the SDS Aleksandur Yordanov told journalists after the meeting. According to him "the transition to a market economy should not be taken hostage to the policy of the Podkrepa leadership."

The Podkrepa Labor Confederation and its leader Dr. Konstantin Trenchev were co-founders of the SDS in late 1989. After the SDS won the general election in October 1991 Podkrepa left the coalition. Justifying the decision Dr. Trenchev said it was unnatural for a trade union to be part of a ruling coalition. Early 1992 witnessed a conflict between Podkrepa and the SDS government, which declared it will not let trade unions rule in place of the cabinet.

We do not declare war on trade unions, we are ready to negotiate, yet we cannot let a group of trade union leaders turn Bulgaria into a banana republic, said Stefan Savov, leader of the SDS-affiliated Democratic Party and chairman of parliament. In his view some actions of trade union leaders are motivated by interests linked to the beginning privatization.

BSP Plenum Meets, Disbands Shadow Cabinet

AU1507192692 Sofia BTA in English 1637 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 15 (BTA)—The MP's [members of parliament] of the Parliamentary Union for Social Democracy (the parliamentary coalition led by the Bulgarian Socialist Party) will go back to the National Assembly firmly convinced that this parliament will be dissolved before the end of its life, BSP floor leader Nora Ananieva told a news conference today. A BSP plenum which ended early this morning decided to fix a date for the comeback depending on the situation in the country, she said.

The Socialists demand the resignation of National Assembly Chairman Stefan Savov. When they return to parliament they will move a vote of no confidence in the government. According to Mrs. Ananieva, this is a moral and political act which may become a reality later on.

The plenum, which continued throughout the night, discussed a new style for Socialist MP's and alternatives to the incumbent government and the policy of the ruling Union of Democratic Forces (SDS). The BSP decided to work out an alternative programme on the basis of a critical analysis of the SDS government before parliament reconvenes after the summer recess. The plenum approved a new structure of the BSP parliamentary factors and elected two deputy floor leaders, Mr. Georgi Pirinski and Mr. Krasimir Premyanov.

The plenum disbanded the shadow cabinet which, according to Mrs. Ananieva, has played out its role. Speaking on national radio this morning, ex-shadow prime minister Aleksandur Tomov described this decision as politically wrong, hasty and unwarranted. He said the decision was made in the absence of representatives of the Alliance for Social Democracy (OSD), a social democratic movement in the BSP which he represents. Ms. Ananieva denied this allegation. According to her, the structural changes are not targeted against the OSD but seek to locate persons who can rally Socialist MP's potential to work out a new BSP programme.

The Socialists decided against going back to the National Assembly Human Rights Committee. Socialist MP Dimitur Yonchev resigned as deputy chairman of the National Assembly Committee on National Security, it

was announced today. Leaving parliament last week, the BSP declared it will withdraw Socialist MP's from the leaderships of parliamentary committees.

Zhelev Hears BSP Concerns About Judiciary

AU1507193192 Sofia BTA in English 1623 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 15 (BTA)—President Zhelyu Zhelev today received the leader of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), Mr. Zhan Videnov, at the latter's request.

Mr. Videnov expressed BSP's concern over the condition of this country's judiciary and what the party sees as mounting fear of political repressions in the country. Mr. Videnov told the press he had handed the president a written request whereby the BSP asks that the Supreme Judicial Council consider the activities of Prosecutor General Ivan Tatarchev, which, according to the Socialists, contravene the country's Constitution and laws and provide sufficient grounds for his dismissal.

President Zhelev said that public concord in this country was indispensable for the implementation of the reforms and that he would help the political forces find a suitable form of dialogue. He also said that no opportunity for dialogue should be missed, including parliamentary dialogue. The BSP walked out of parliament last week, but today the party decided to reappear at plenary sittings, without specifying a date for its comeback.

Former Prime Minister Arrested for Embezzlement

AU1407182092 Sofia BTA in English 1626 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 14 (BTA)—Member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Central Committee of the former Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Grisha Filipov was arrested at the National Investigative Service this morning.

Mr. Filipov was prime minister from 1981 to 1986 and later, until communist dictator Todor Zhivkov's ouster, headed the Social and Economic Development Committee of the Ninth National Assembly (1986-89).

Mr. Filipov was accused of serious embezzlement, a particularly grave offense. The charges are connected with the millions of dollars in aid granted to communist parties and states in the 1986-89 period, Mikhail Dochev, chief of the team of prosecutors and examining magistrates investigating the economic catastrophe case told BTA.

The then-deputy Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov has been arrested in connection with the grant-aid case. Last Tuesday [7 July] parliament voted to strip him of parliamentary immunity.

All members of ex-Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov's cabinet (1986-89) are expected to be summoned to testify on the case.

Bank Chief's Connections With Trenchev Disclosed

AU1407181792 Sofia BTA in English 1634 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Iva Toncheva report]

[Text] Sofia, July 14 (BTA)—The resignation of National Bank Governor Todor Vulchev, submitted to parliament last Tuesday [7 July], is still being discussed. A scandal is likely to burst.

Prof. Todor Vulchev has not made any statements yet. Today's KONTINENT carries a facsimile of Prof. Vulchev's letter dated July 7 to Dr. Konstantin Trenchev, leader of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation. Judging by it, the National Bank governor thanked the trade union leader "for his trust and for preventing the publication of the document." According to 24 CHASA, close to the Union for Private Economic Enterprise, the document in question is discrediting material. Citing the letter, the trade union leader claims that he has nothing to do with Prof. Vulchev's resignation. Last week some newspapers wrote that Trenchev had exerted pressure on the bank's governor.

The "discrediting material," if the article in the previous issue of the DEBATI weekly can be described so, says that Prof. Vulchev's daughter runs a company and that soft loans have been granted to Austrian businessmen. Deputy Prime Minister Ilko Eskenazi was also mentioned in this connection but he denied the allegations. An investigation conducted by reporters of OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK found certain contradictions. The author of the article in DEBATI, Lyubomir Zakhariev, unknown to most readers, was rather unconvincing in an interview on National Radio yesterday. A banner headline in DEBATI today runs: "Todor Vulchev's resignation was caused by banking machinations, not by DEBATI article."

The PARI daily says that Todor Vulchev did not know about the discrediting material in DEBATI when he handed in his resignation.

KONTINENT and 24 CHASA today quote Podkrepa's leader Konstantin Trenchev as saying that the discrediting of Prof. Vulchev, who is considered an authority in banking circles, served Finance Minister Ivan Kostov's interests. However, Kostov denied a similar allegation last week.

Podkrepa has always criticized the finance minister since the formation of the cabinet of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS). However, the preparation for strikes alongside ongoing strikes and excessive wage demands at this particular time show that Podkrepa is targeting its attack on the cabinet rather than on the finance minister

only. Podkrepa's leader said yesterday: "Another SDS government is an alternative to the present government."

"The small Podkrepa party, which has bribed some people through dishonest dealings and has intimidated others with its noisy commands, has turned this into a campaign," DEBATI writes today. The newspaper says that Asen Michkovski M.P. [member of parliament] who is close to Podkrepa, two businessmen and Podkrepa's Confederal Secretary Radoslav Nenov have returned from the U.S. recently. They had talks with the Matrix Corporation on cooperation in military industry without previous consultations with the government committee in control of arms deals, DEBATI writes.

OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK and PARI today publish a facsimile of a trade union document showing that Podkrepa is contradicting itself with the statement that it has not interfered in banking. When the banking supervision department of the Bulgarian National Bank began auditing the International Bank for Trade and Development, to which Podkrepa seems to have turned, the trade union started to exert pressure to stop the auditing.

SDS Supports National Bank Governor, Reform

AU1407202992 Sofia BTA in English 2002 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 14 (BTA)—The Parliamentary Group of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) firmly supports National Bank Governor Todor Vulchev and the banking reform he is carrying out, says a declaration of the parliamentary SDS, issued this evening.

The M.P.'s [members of parliament] of the SDS describe the discrediting article against Prof. Vulchev recently published in DEBATI as the latest attempt to destabilize one of the key institutions—the Bulgarian National Bank, and as a political blackmail. The articles containing allegations against 70-year-old Prof. Vulchev and his daughter provoked him to resign on July 7.

Such materials aim to cause a crisis in the financial system, obstruct the negotiations on Bulgaria's external debt, foil the signing of a new extended agreement with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and halt banking reforms, the declaration says.

At Prof. Vulchev's request, today's meeting of the Parliamentary Group of the SDS decided to set up a commission to verify the facts in the articles. "If all is true, I cannot remain National Bank governor," Prof. Vulchev told journalists. He added that he will resign if his daughter really is "doing business with the red nomenklatura in Vienna", (as DEBATI wrote), though he himself is not to blame for this.

Asked who could take advantage of his discrediting, Prof. Vulchev said that some private banks are strongly opposed to banking supervision over their activity and have long been struggling against the introduction of stricter supervision. According to Prof. Vulchev, banking supervision by the National Bank is very limited now. He declined to identify the private banks in question.

Medical Workers Union Leader Defends Trenchev

AU1607111692 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Statement given over the telephone by Dr. Nikolay Kutev, chairman of the Federation of Health Workers with the Podkrepa Labor Confederation; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] I would like to make the following announcement and explanation regarding the news we heard on Khorizont Radio about the suspension of our protest actions in some hospitals and health institutions.

We were just informed that 100 percent of our colleagues at the Botevgrad Hospital have handed in their resignations, as have 60 percent of the medical personnel at the Sliven Okrug Hospital. The personnel at the Elena City Hospital and in many other places have resigned. The protest actions continue.

A protest rally is expected to take place in Gorna Oryakhovitsa today. The action has been authorized by the mayor's office.

In addition to this I would like to add the following: The attempts to disband the Podkrepa Labor Confederation and the efforts to disgrace and destroy its chairman, Dr. Trenchev, represent a gross action of killing democracy in Bulgaria and establishing a totalitarian society.

We declare that we fully support Dr. Trenchev, and we will alert all world public opinion, which has already been informed. We will defend Dr. Trenchev against the attempts and attacks of the dark forces of society, those who represent the real mafia and who should be unmasked as soon as possible.

Trade Unions Agree To Form Coordination Council

AU1607080592 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 11-12 Jul 92 p 2

[By Svetlana Veselinova]

[Text] Sofia, 10 July—The Independent Trade Union will set up a working commission to follow up on all reports of violations in various enterprises and companies and to submit them, in writing, to the Council of Ministers and parliament, union chairman Plamen Darakchiev announced today.

Darakchiev also announced that on 7 July, all trade union organizations outside the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria and the Podkrepa Labor Confederation concluded an agreement to form a joint council to coordinate their interests. The aim of

this council is to represent the trade unions before state authorities, employers, and public organizations, and at the same time, to conduct their trade union policy.

Darakchiev claimed that despite the National Council for Social Partnership's decision on equal representation of national trade union organizations at branch level, the union had met with rejection as far as joint partnership was concerned, especially from the Podkrepa Labor Confederation.

If no agreement is reached with employers on 13 July, the national trade union structures in the Bulgarian State Railways will declare an all-out strike.

Parliament Cuts Profits Tax for Private Business

AU1607080292 Sofia BTA in English 2016 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Sofia, July 15 (BTA)—Today the National Assembly passed on second reading an act amending Decree No. 56 on business activity. The amendments create an effective mechanism for price controls on goods and services of prime necessity. Besides, the Council of Ministers is empowered to set projected and minimum prices as well as maximum mercantile additions, apart from fixed and threshold prices.

Other provisions set the rate of profits tax for the banks and the State Savings Bank and regulate the contributions to the Training and Relocation Fund and the Amelioration Fund. This was done so far under acts of subordinate legislation, which contravenes the new Constitution.

The act extends preferential treatment to private entrepreneurs. "Juristic persons engaged in business activity, wherein the state or the municipalities hold no interest, shall be taxed at a rate of 30 per cent, where their annual taxable profits do not exceed one million leva," the new act says. So far all private companies paid a profits tax at a flat rate of 40 per cent.

Parliament today passed an act ratifying the UN Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister on Inflation, Falling Production

AU1507135792 Sofia BTA in English 1123 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 15 (BTA)—In June inflation was 5 or 6 percent, I expect that the normal monthly inflation rate of 3 percent will go up by 3.5 percent in July in result of the application of the new customs tariff, Finance Minister Ivan Kostov points out in an interview for the VEK 21 weekly. In his opinion in August and September inflation will keep to its projected level of about 3 percent because besides the seasonal drop in prices other stabilizing factors will start operating, and they will "practically mark the end of the process of the price system liberalization."

Minister Kostov concentrates on three major points in his reply to the question what are the reasons for the continuing decline of production and when this downward tendency could be expected to end. Budget expenditure economization reduce state consumption, which in turn limits demand in the country's economy as a whole, the finance minister says. On the other hand, the government's stabilization policy has coincided with the total disintegration of the country's export markets. Bulgaria's economy has been severely hit in terms of demand, Mr. Kostov says. He reminds that Bulgarian exports shrank due to the loss of markets in the former Soviet Union and in the Middle East and as a result of the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. At the beginning of 1992 Yugoslavia accounted for 10.2 percent of Bulgaria's total export.

The finance minister believes that curbing the decline and ensuring economic growth depends on people, and that the major factor in overcoming the collapse is their activity.

In his opinion the main reason for foreign investors' cautiousness with regard to Bulgaria is the unsettled problem of the country's external debt. That is why the settlement of the debt problem is the crucial point from which, once it is reached, we could stop the economic decline and ensure its growth, Mr. Ivan Kostov says.

The finance minister points out in the interview that it is extremely important to conclude an extended agreement with the International Monetary Fund. This will make it possible to sign debt settlement arrangements and get an IMF loan for buying back the debt or applying other instruments to resolve the debt problem.

The finance minister stresses that the government decision to raise wages by 26 percent would make it difficult to utilize this year's budget as planned. "And yet I hope that it would not be necessary to update it," he says. According to the finance minister the government decision on the rise of wages should by no mean be considered an attempt to compensate for inflation growth. Inflation should be used as a means of exerting pressure on those who do not work well, Minister Kostov believes.

"It is utterly irresponsible to erode an institution which is the mainstay of the country's financial stability, I think this is a crime," Minister Kostov says, commenting on the pressure put on the governor of the Bulgarian National Bank, Prof. Todor Vulchev, who gave in his resignation a week ago. He described the discrediting material against Prof. Vulchev which was to appear in the trade union PODKREPA paper as a fabrication without any evidence to support it. According to Minister Kostov the attack against Prof. Vulchev is actually an attack against the institution itself—the National

Bank, and, indirectly, against the Ministry of Finance and the government; its real purpose is destabilization, Mr. Kostov notes.

Commenting on the frequent criticism which some private businessmen and the publications of the 168 CHASA press they are related to level at him, the finance minister says that his ministry cannot govern the policy pursued with regard to private business alone. Their ridiculous attacks show they think that if the finance minister was one of their own men, they would become rich faster, that they would pass their own legislation and that some people would be given preferences. But this is impossible, because the democratic state will crush any such attempt, as it has enough mechanisms of control, Minister Kostov says. In his opinion the critics of the finance minister just want to go scot-free.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Talks in Munich

AU1507195792 Sofia BTA in English 1625 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 15 (BTA)—At the invitation of Mr. Erwin Huber, secretary general of the German Christian Social Union (CSU), Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev is to deliver a lecture on "Bulgaria's Foreign Policy: Contribution to Free and Democratic Europe" before the CSU Foreign Politics Society in Munich on July 16.

Mr. Ganev left for Munich today where he will hold talks with Mr. Theo Waigel, CSU chairman and minister of finance, and other prominent German statesmen and politicians, the Foreign Ministry spokeswoman told BTA.

Austrian President Holds Talks With Havel

LD1507200192 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1730 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Tomas Klestil, president of the Republic of Austria, arrived in Zidlochovice in South Moravia today for an unofficial visit to Czechoslovakia. This is his first foreign trip. Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel welcomed him at Zidlochovice chateau shortly before 1900. The two statesmen held a brief tete-a-tete discussion. As this newscast airs they are due to attend a working dinner.

This is what Michael Zantovsky, spokesman for the Czechoslovak president, told us about the talks.

[Begin Zantovsky recording] The main topic was bilateral relations between our republic and Austria and their further development. The meeting is taking place after a long time so there is a lot to be discussed since the relations between the CSFR and the Austrian Republic, especially economic relations, have been developing with great intensity recently. The CSFR president wanted to inform the Austrian president, as a president of a neighboring country, about the current political situation in Czechoslovakia and about the alternatives for further development, including the possibility of a split. It is likely that the third part of their talks will include wider European issues and the issues of European cooperation and security. [end recording]

Klaus Assures German Ambassador of Treaty

LD1607022292 Prague Stanice Praha Radio Network in Czech 1630 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus received German Ambassador Hermann Huber today. Huber wanted to know the prime minister's view of the political situation in Czechoslovakia and of the possible consequences for Germany. Vaclav Klaus assured him that as far as the future Czech-German relations were concerned, the Czech side would, even in the case of the division of the state, feel bound by the valid Czechoslovak-German treaty.

Havel Speaks at CSCE Summit in Helsinki

AU1407155392 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 11 Jul 92 pp 1,2

[Speech by President Vaclav Havel at the CSCE summit meeting in Helsinki on 9 July: "A Road Toward a New Certainty"]

[Text] Esteemed Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The specter of communism stalked Europe 150 years ago. Today the specter of postcommunism is stalking the continent. If the rapid collapse of totalitarianism in the Soviet empire and its satellites has astonished the world and taken it by surprise, then the quantity and depth of the problems that hibernated under the surface of communist unity, and are only now manifesting themselves in all their urgency and potency, astonish us even more. Anyone who has seen the horrific scenes from Bosnia-Hercegovina on television cannot harbor any doubts about the urgency of these problems.

All the new and painfully evolving postcommunist democratic regimes have to encounter various versions of these problems. Their citizens are not used to freedom, they are a little confused by it, they rejoice in it, but—at the same time—they are bewildered by the fact that the entire system and its hitherto certainties has collapsed, and they are finding it hard to get used to their own full-fledged citizenship, and to rid themselves of all the bad habits communism fostered in them. It is becoming apparent just how sick the communist economy was, and just how difficult the transition to a market economy is. The veil of lies has slipped off, and we all know just how devastated the environment we live in is.

However, the most interesting dimension or element of the postcommunist situation is something else: History has been revived, a history that appeared to have been long forgotten and superimposed by other experiences. All the age-old conflicts, wrongs, injustices, and animosities are suddenly being revoked and are returning, and all the ambitions harbored by nations—ambitions suppressed by history—are dramatically coming to the fore. It seems that nothing has been forgotten or forgiven and that the entire postcommunist world, until recently an exclusively red color, is in reality extremely multicolored. It is as if certain parts of Europe and Asia have awakened from a slumber lasting many years and have begun to live—unaffected by development in the democratic world—the same way they used to live. The sudden flare-up of freedom is not only tugging at the straitjacket sewn by communism, but is also shredding to pieces perceptions of the centuries-old and difficult history of nations. Nations are thinking back to their former kings and emperors, to their ancient state units and former borders; they are becoming aware of their permanently suppressed national identity, and they are also becoming aware of who suppressed it. Such a situation is, understandably, fertile ground for national fanaticism, xenophobia, and intolerance and also for demagogues, authoritarians, and populists of all kinds to whom people gripped by a profound feeling of uncertainty easily cling to as their savior.

It seems that the postcommunist world is a giant melting pot for the fate of nations in which many complicated chemical reactions—good ones and very dangerous ones—are taking place.

I represent a country that until recently many people had seen as one of the possible stabilizing factors in Central Europe in view of its democratic traditions and economy. Today this country is also experiencing a profound crisis concerning its statehood. We are confronted with the question of whether its current statehood—with which several generations of Czechs and

Slovaks have identified themselves—has been overtaken by the dynamism of history.

I think all of us—that is, not only those of us who live in the postcommunist world, but also those of us in the so-called West—have two fundamental choices: To wait and see what else will happen, to wait and see what dramatic events in the postcommunist melting pot will surprise us next, and put off a more consequential decision until we know how everything has turned out. Our second choice is—on the contrary—to accept this moment as a great historical appeal to our generation. An appeal to us to try to comprehend the events that are taking place, to put a name to them, to understand the direction they are moving in, and to influence them in a creative manner so that they do not lead to chaos, more conflicts, poverty, and further suffering, but, on the contrary, that they result as soon as possible in a new and better peaceful arrangement. An arrangement that would respect all the justified ambitions of nations, but at the same time would unite these nations in a common principle, in the only principle possible: In the principle of human rights, democracy, economic prosperity, and everyone's peaceful cooperation with everyone else.

The existing European peace-time system is disintegrating. I believe the current epoch contains a summons to create and nurture a new system, a system corresponding to the claims the situation facing the planet is making on today's civilization.

The West should also listen to this historic summons in its own best interest. After all, today we can see that the various disintegrative processes in the East inevitably cause differentiation, even polarization, of opinions and interests in the West. Today we can see how the West, until recently united by the threat from the East, is losing its hitherto unity, how its long-overcome past is being revoked in the form of diversely differentiating geopolitical interests and mutually conflicting individual aspirations, and how—face-to-face with the dramas in the East—it itself seems to be losing its certainty regarding the hitherto common path. This is understandable. After all, East and West are merely joint vessels and whatever happens in one of them eventually affects the other.

After World War II, several distinguished European politicians—De Gaulle, Churchill, Adenauer, and others—did a great deal to ensure that West Europe shaped its own system of unity in diversity, an inseparable element of which involved a political and security link with North America. I think it is necessary to again follow up on their effort, and to attempt with their broad- mindedness, courage, and hard work to construct an analogous system of unity in diversity not only in a pan-European and Atlantic scale, but also on a Eurasian scale. Only such a rapid, positive, broad-minded, and courageous effort can erect a barrier to the danger that the postcommunist East will begin to radiate instability far beyond its borders and will become a new threat, a threat that, in a certain sense, will be much more dangerous than communism. Nuclear force could deter it. Deterrent nuclear force is powerless against local conflicts, national passions and hatreds, social shocks, and thousands of minor clashes involving various conflicting interests.

The only force that can possibly stand up against all of this is the force of proper political will. The will to rapidly and inventively establish democratic structures for cooperation and integration, to broad-mindedly support all reform processes, and to impose tough sanctions against every violation of international law, every act of violence, and every assault on human rights.

It would be suicidal to wait and look on in confusion.

I think that, for a variety of reasons, the CSCE is an unusually advantageous environment for a manifestation of such political will. The policy of democratic Czechoslovakia has from the very beginning placed a great deal of hope in the CSCE and has recommended it to quickly find its new role in a changing Europe.

We are in favor of the CSCE strengthening its structures and mechanisms and seeking authority for them, but, at the same time, enabling them to function effectively and operatively. It should grant its organs greater authority and make flexibility in decisionmaking possible. The adoption of the principle of consensus minus one and the establishment of the Forum for Security Cooperation are steps in the right direction. However, this is far from enough; it is necessary to go further.

We are in favor of the CSCE linking up properly and as soon as possible with the other international organizations, depending on them, and using them. This would definitely be better than investing in new institutions and instruments that would only duplicate the activity of organisms already functioning. The European Community can become the main driving force behind European unification, a driving force that will, at the same time, pull other countries into its gravitational field. NATO and the Western European Union may serve as the main instruments for possible CSCE peace missions. The Council of Europe can offer excellent advice to the CSCE as the propagator and instigator of European political culture, and as the creator of European legal standards. The CSCE can also establish forms of cooperation with all these and other organizations and institutions enabling it to transfer some of its functions to them.

From the point of view of longer-term prospects, it would be fitting, in my opinion, if the CSCE were to more purposefully prepare for its gradual transformation into a truly treaty-based union that would oblige its members to adhere to all the agreed upon principles and that would have the right to impose sanctions against their violation.

I am convinced that in the future—if it wants to—the CSCE can become the main guarantor of peaceful coexistence, security, and democratic development

throughout the northern hemisphere and, at the same time, become an important framework for pan-European unification.

Nations that have been free for centuries cannot hinder nations that gained their freedom only recently—some of which have never in fact been free—in their emancipation attempts and thus go against the trend of history. It is necessary to do the very opposite: To open up to them quickly and with complete understanding. To open up democracy, an advanced political culture, mutually guaranteed security, respect for human rights, and broad-minded economic assistance. The broader the democratic embrace offered to the post-communist part of the world, the quicker the demons of hatred, violence, and national fanaticism will disappear from it.

Hopefully, this important meeting in hospitable Helsinki will enter into the history books as the first step on the road to a new certainty, a new peace-time order, and a new kind of collective responsibility for the state of things in general.

Thank you for your attention.

Parties Comment on Federal Government Program

LD1507020192 Prague CSTK in English 2110 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Prague July 14 (CSTK)—Five committees of the House of Nations and House of the People of the Czechoslovak parliament today recommended to the houses to approve the programme of the Federal Government, submitted to the parliament July 10.

Opposed to the government programme were representatives of the SPR-RSC [Assembly for the Republic-Czechoslovak Republican Party], while leftist parties' deputies in the committees abstained from voting. To be adopted the government programme will require an absolute majority of votes from the House of the People and from the Czech and Slovak sections of the House of Nations. Voting is expected on July 17.

The Constitutional Committee of the House of the People called on the House to ask the Federal Government to work out an analysis of what effects a partition of Czechoslovakia would have and submit it to the parliament by September 15.

As regards the attitudes of the parliamentary parties, which are currently discussing the Federal Government programme, those of the ODS [Civic Democratic Society] and KDU-CSL [Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party] are clear, as they authored the document. The KDS [Christian Democratic Party] also clearly supports it.

LSU [Liberal Social Union] Chairman Ladislav Dvorak told CSTK LSU deputies are against the way Czechoslovakia's constitutional future is dealt with in the programme. He also said the programme should cover its whole four-year term and not only a "limited" period as mentioned in some parts of the programme.

CSSD [Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party] Chairman Jiri Horak said deputies for the CSSD will endorse many points of the programme, but they will criticise the passages concerning Czechoslovakia's future setup as they believe the Federal Government is preparing the division of the state into two independent republics. A final decision cannot be made by either the republic parliaments or the federal parliament, but only by citizens in a referendum, said Horak.

SDL [Democratic Left Party] Deputy Michal Bencik said deputies from his party believe many passages are too general and unfeasible for a period of only three months.

SDSS [Social Democratic Party in Slovakia] Chairman Alexander Dubcek said the government is virtually asking for authorisation to work towards dismantling the Czechoslovak state. He said he doubts whether these efforts are in tune with the present constitution, and added that a decision on the country's partition can be made only by citizens in both republics.

Prime Minister Views Political Situation

AU1407170192 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech 10 Jul 92 pp 1,3

[Interview with CSFR Prime Minister Jan Strasky by Jindrich Sidlo; place and date not given: "Be on Guard and Cooperate"]

[Text] [Sidlo] Do you believe you will be the last federal prime minister?

[Strasky] If I honor the text of the principles of this government's policy statement, I do not have the right to think that way. The odds that I would really be the last prime minister are, I believe, about even.

[Sidlo] Will the policy statement in some way explicitly confine the mandate of the Federal Government?

[Strasky] Yes, to approximately three months. It is not a mandate in the real sense of the word, but rather an actual policy statement that will be based on a three-month outlook with two possible alternatives for further development. Both these alternatives assume, however, the drafting of a new policy statement.

[Sidlo] Does Vladimir Meciar's statement in the LE MONDE interview improve the prospects for the existence of the federation and thus also for the Federal Government?

[Strasky] I read what our press carried, along with a translation of the entire interview. I believe that it only provides a new vocabulary, and would not deduce from it any improvement in the chances for the federation. There is some misunderstanding here. As long as this federation has a confederative budget "each pays his own way," as is written in the political agreement

between the Civic Democratic Party and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia; the split in the state is just as close as if we introduced two currencies. Meciar seems to link the two, and from the Slovak side's support for a single bank of issue, he deduces that the federation is stronger. The confederative budget, however, will have consequences marring the existence of a common state.

[Sidlo] Would you characterize your government as a political or a caretaker one?

[Strasky] Since it was formed after rather complex political negotiations, it can be described as a political one.

[Sidlo] Does the Federal Government policy statement in any way deviate from the political agreement between the Civic Democratic Party and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia signed in Bratislava?

[Strasky] I believe that it must not deviate. The introductory principles may be complemented, so as to make it a meaningful policy statement. The principles of the political agreement focused on politically sensitive issues. Now, these principles must be complemented by the actual goals of the government. The policy statement should not intimidate either party toward the agreement.

[Sidlo] As the powers are passed onto the republics, is the government able to guarantee the operation of federal networks?

[Strasky] It is one of the tasks of this government. The government assumes that it has the same powers as the federation had prior to the elections. That is why all the ministerial posts are filled, or rather individual ministers are entrusted with their administration. It will be the task of the government to prepare such a proposal for the power shift that the jurisdiction of the federation be transferred to five federal ministries, or to certain bodies that would likely be incorporated in the Government Office. I have in mind, above all, the international obligations of the abolished ministries, because these ministries certainly should not exist at the end of September. The clarification of powers that should be transferred to the republics is a matter for political discussions in the government. I noticed that the individual members of the government do not entirely agree in their ideas on how many powers will be transferred horizontally and how many vertically—of course they only express their ideas. The government will deal with this issue soon.

[Sidlo] The definition of powers is linked to the division of the federal property.

[Strasky] Each ministry has a different significance in the framework of the federation. This indicates that we will probably differentiate in the transfer of the powers to the republics. I believe that when Deputy Prime Minister Vacek spoke about the Environment, and Labor, and Social Affairs Ministries, he built on the correct assumption that in these ministries it is possible to transfer more powers to the republics than in the department of the Foreign Trade Ministry, for instance. It will be the subject of very complex talks. Nonetheless, the federal powers, i.e. all relations with foreign countries and all international treaties and obligations signed by the CSFR must remain at the level of the federal bodies for at least three months. I am not aware that the government should decide on any property changes within these three months.

[Sidlo] The proportional representation rule requires that ministries be filled in related pairs—economy and finance, or defense and interior. These ministries are then headed by people from two sides with quite diverse political and economic concepts. Could this become an impediment to the viability of the government?

[Strasky] These pairs originated in the political talks in Prague and were specified in Bratislava. The idea behind it was to provide well balanced political positions in the government for both sides. These positions and their significance were supposed to be approximately equal and not complement or even contradict one another. I would like to emphasize that one important decision still remains to be implemented—all five ministers should take on deputies of a different political and national background. The Czech side has already proposed its candidates to the Slovak partner, but the Slovak side has not been ready thus far to nominate its two candidates for the posts of deputies of the Czech ministers. It will be discussed at the next session of the government. That could lead to a certain parity that you might have had in mind. We are building on the assumption that a certain political agreement was reached, and it should be honored in the government. Two persons in each department, the minister and the deputy minister, should verify from their posts that all stipulations of the political agreement are honored from the point of view of their concepts.

[Sidlo] One cannot resist the idea—particularly if the conceivable disintegration of the state is considered—that the Civic Democratic Party and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia wanted to form the Federal Government for the purpose of guarding rather than cooperating.

[Strasky] You are quite persuasive in your conclusions. We must cooperate, and we want to watch one another.

[Sidlo] Czech Republic Privatization Minister Jiri Skalicky declared on 7 July that the second wave of privatization will no longer be a federal enterprise. Do you agree?

[Strasky] This statement must be based on the expectation of the outcome of the talks between the national councils on the constitutional arrangement that are to take place in this quarter. If we take the time schedule of the second wave of coupon privatization, we see that it should be implemented shortly after the end of the year, and if some agreement is reached by then, the second wave of coupon privatization could take a different course. It is possible that talks on this topic will be

initiated, and it is also possible that during these talks a decision will be made to conduct the second wave separately. I will not deny that during the past year we have considered this possibility several times in the Czech Government, and there is a chance of doing the same on the federal level. It would mean a separation of the assets of Czech and Slovak enterprises. The Czech Republic citizen would then select from the companies owned by the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic citizen from those owned by the Slovak Republic. In itself this would not mean a disintegration of the state. It would be a certain signal, and at one time we have agreed that the Czech Government not send this signal. Time runs passes quickly on these issues, and I hope that Minister Skalicky considered his statement carefully and that he had good reasons for making it.

[Sidlo] It could happen that no president will be elected by 5 October. Some of his powers would then go to the Federal Assembly Presidium and some to the Federal Government. The Constitution does not clearly define, however, which presidential powers would go where. Have you dealt with this issue?

[Strasky] We have not discussed this in the government nor in the Civic Democratic Party. I am aware of this provision in the Constitution. I believe that since the Federal Government was formed, most of the powers will go to the government. This is one reason the Federal Government had to be formed. There was the danger that two federal bodies would be absent—the presidential institution and the federal government. I will not deny that it was one of the motivations for the Civic Democratic Party to reach an agreement on the formation of the government.

[Sidlo] Let us go back to the beginning of our interview, to the question of whether you are the last federal prime minister. Foreign Minister Moravcik declared on 8 July that a probable date for the conceivable disintegration of the state is 1 January 1993. What is your opinion?

[Strasky] I believe that it is a rather unsupported estimate. The citizens are aware of the many circumstances that have an impact on the situation. One of them is the question of whether the national councils reach the conclusion that they have the mandate to decide on the constitutional arrangement in the framework of their talks. If they decide that they do not have this mandate, there will have to be a referendum, and [since the state cannot be divided for one year following the referendum according to the law] Moravcik will have been wrong. I have no idea whether Moravcik is convinced of the first alternative, but I am not that certain. At the same time, I insist that this issue be considered not only from the point of view of democracy, but also from that of the economy. In the position I happen to be in, I obtain a lot of information on the damages caused precisely by this open problem. What I have in mind is the stand of the Western business circles, banks, etc. Therefore, I think that Moravcik should be right.

Czech Finance Minister on Aid Plan for Slovakia

AU1507161392 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 14 Jul 92 pp 1,14

[Interview with Czech Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik by Tomas Marek; place and date not given: "The Czech Budget and a Marshall Plan"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Marek] A Klaus-Marshall Plan for Slovakia was mentioned a few days ago. Do you think that if the Slovak side made concessions on certain political issues—for instance, in its aim to achieve international legal status—such a plan could be implemented?

[Kocarnik] It is obvious that the transformation process and the collapse of markets, especially in East Europe, is affecting various regions—in both the Czech and Slovak Republics—in various ways. If we could count on the continued existence of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic, then, operating under normal circumstances, a federative system for a specific economic area would help resolve the problems that crop up in certain regions within this area. Inter-regional transfer is essential, whether within the Czech Republic or the entire CSFR. Of course, this problem acquires a new dimension and is perceived differently by the Czech public in a situation where Slovak representatives are striving for an independent state. Perhaps the Czech public would not mind so much if these transfers of resources from one part of the Republic to the other continued, but it objects to such an idea in a situation where Slovakia has declared its desire to withdraw from the union with the Czech Republic.

[Marek] Nevertheless, how much would the Czech Republic be able to invest in an aid plan for Slovakia? A sum of 25 billion korunas has been mentioned. Do you think this sum is realistic?

[Kocarnik] I do not think even the possibility of a so-called Klaus-Marshall Plan is realistic. Slovakia's desire for emancipation and the wording of the Slovak Government's policy statement go so far that all of this is already out of the question. However, if I have to express an opinion on the sum that could be transferred to Slovakia, in no way would it be as much as you mentioned. Approximately half this sum could be contemplated.

[Marek] If the state breaks up, some experts envisage the Slovak foreign trade balance will collapse, the republic's budget will collapse, and the entire economy will subsequently experience a profound decline. What impact would such development have on Czech producers? In this case, would it make sense to return to a modified version of this Klaus-Marshall Plan with the aim of maintaining the Slovak market in an at least serviceable situation?

[Kocarnik] I do not think the development you are talking about would come to pass. At the very least, this

is an issue for negotiation between the Czech and Slovak Republics where a clear attempt at an agreement will be made in a number of matters. Many Czech enterprises have a keen interest in maintaining their Slovak market, and a number of Slovak enterprises have a similar attitude toward the Czech market. These are good starting points for negotiations. However, if such development did come to pass in Slovakia, this would mean, of course, the loss of a market and would have similar consequences to the collapse of the market in the former East Europe.

Czech Parliament Approves Government Policy

LD1407230792 Prague CSTK in English 2012 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Prague July 14 (CSTK)—Czech parliament deputies from the ODS [Civic Democratic Party], KDS [Christian Democratic Party], ODA [Civic Democratic Alliance] and KDU-CSL [Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party] today voiced support for the Czech Government's programme, presented yesterday by Premier Vaclav Klaus.

Deputies from the CSSD [Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party], HSD-SMS [Self-Governing Democracy Movement-Society for Moravia and Silesia], LB [Left Bloc] and SPR-RSC [Assembly for the Republic- Czechoslovak Republican Party] said they do not support the programme.

LSU [Liberal Social Union] Deputy Pavel Hirs said he doubts whether the Czech Government and parliament together have a mandate to lay the foundations of an independent Czech state as outlined in the programme.

Deputies from the HSD-SMS said the programme was vague on what stand the government would take towards the various regions within the republic.

Parliamentary committees today gave their approval to the programme. The legal protection and securty committee recommended that the government present to the next regular parliament session a detailed timetable for fulfilling the tasks outlined in its programme.

The committee also proposed the government present to parliament the steps it plans to take for preserving the common state of Czechs and Slovaks.

During debate, chairman of the Agriculture Committee Jan Cerny (ODS-KDS) said the declaration does not take into account higher unemployment levels created by the transformation of cooperative farms and the privatisation of state farms.

Deputy Jiri Drapela (LSU) said the programme does not clearly explain how the government will proceed in further talks with Slovak leaders. He repeated the LSU's support for a federal state setup consisting of at least three parts—Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, and Slovakia.

The Czech parliament today approved the programme of the Czech Government, presented yesterday by Premier Vaclav Klaus, by a vote of 105 to 63. 27 deputies abstained from voting.

By voting to approve the programme, the parliament expressed its confidence in the government.

Supporting the programme were the deputies from the ODS, KDS, KSU-CSL, ODA and one deputy from the LSU. Deputies from the SPR-RSC, HSD-SMS, and one from the LSU voted against the programme. Abstaining were the deputies from the CSSD and the remaining LSU deputies.

Rejects Additional Proposals

AU1607142792 Prague CSTK in English 0629 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Prague July 15 (CSTK)—Deputies of the Czech National Council (parliament) Tuesday [14 July] night turned down add-on proposals to the Czech Government programme, including a recommendation that the cabinet prepare measures necessary in case of a dramatic change in Czechoslovakia's current federation.

The additional proposals, submitted by legislators of the ODA [Civic Democratic Alliance], were voted down after the parliament approved the programme itself by a 105-63 count.

Also rejected was an explicit recommendation for the government to draw up a draft constitution for the Czech Republic as quickly as possible.

Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus has said one of his government's main tasks will be to present to the national council a republic constitution, including provisions for a Czech presidency.

Jiri Drapela's proposal for the Czech Government to open talks with their Slovak counterparts on the reformation of the current federation as a tripartite federal state was also among the suggestions voted down. Drapela is a member of the LSU [Liberal Social Union].

Klaus Defends Government Against Opposition

LD1507012892 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 2030 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The Czech National Council expressed confidence tonight in the new Czech Government. Voting for the endorsement of the policy statement were 105 deputies, 63 were against, and 27 abstained from voting. This happened after a debate in which deputies of opposition parties expressed dissatisfaction with individual passages of the Policy Statement. The comments were mainly about the alleged lack of specificity in the succession of governmental steps and the lack of sensitivity on the issue of Moravia.

The deputies oriented towards the left expressed disagreement with the tone of the statement, which in their view leads clearly to the break-up of the common state.

Vaclav Klaus reacted to the comments in his final address prior to the vote-taking.

[Begin Klaus recording] Today's discussion showed the (?exactitude) of our democracy about the behavior of the opposition, which is for me incomprehensible and not state-forming. Neither I, nor our entire government, is aware of anything that could be called contempt of the governmental coalition toward the opposition. I am more inclined to ask what sort of attitude the opposition to the governmental coalition and its policy statement was shown today. The text put forward is not ideological and does not contain any doctrines or extremes; with regard to its ideas, it is a pragmatic text that I think could become a subject of a calm parliamentary discussion.

On behalf of the government I can say that we are not aware that in the Policy Statement we did not respect the valid Constitution. The text contains nothing like this. I do not think that this text contains an a priori presumption of a definite split of the state or that the rebuke is justified that a list of steps leading to the preservation of the common state is missing. I also feel that another state-legislative problem has been artificially created today and that in this difficult moment the so-called Moravian card has been played unnecessarily, in our view. Illusions are being created, particularly in front of the general public, about the chances of a federative set-up, and furthermore about the chance that something like this will be acceptable to the current Slovak representation. In one of the addresses here today even the united Czech state was rejected: it was said that Moravia feels an ethnic tie first with the Slovaks and only then with the Czechs. Threats of a new Northern Ireland were made and so on. We were emphasizing the civic principle, and we do not intend to step back from it in any case. This civic principle really concerns all citizens. [end recording]

According to the latest report, at the conclusion of today's session of the second meeting of the Czech parliament, Deputy Jiri Payne from the Civic Democratic Party took the floor and proposed to set-up a temporary commission of the Czech parliament for talks with the Slovak parliament about the state set-up. According to his proposal, the commission should work independently from the temporary commission of the presidium of the Czech parliament on the preparation of the constitution of the Czech Republic. On the proposal of Michal Kraus, that individual deputy clubs assume a standpoint on the proposal of Deputy Payne, the meeting was interrupted. It will continue the morning of 22 July.

Klaus Discusses Content of Czech Government Policy

LD1607032392 Prague Stanice Praha Radio Network in Czech 1630 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Interview with Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by correspondent Vaclav Musilek on 14 July; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, do you regard your government's policy statement rather as a compromise with individual coalition parties, or as a sum total of essentially concordant views on the majority of issues?

[Klaus] I must say that it is basically a sum total of views. Although the document was on the agenda of two sessions of the cabinet, with the exception of two or three points, no significant debate took place and there was definitely no significant debate containing an ideological or political hint. It is clear that a particular member of the cabinet would lay more emphasis on certain point, but in principle no debate, no hindrance, occurred with regard to the policy statement, definitely not.

[Correspondent] Does it ensue from the content of the policy statement on Czech-Slovak relations that, instead of strictly confidential reports, the government wants to clearly declare its position and course of action as far as the alternatives of state and constitutional set up are concerned?

[Klaus] I am not sure whether your question conceals a thorn of criticism about confidential reports. As far as I know—at least speaking on my own behalf—no secret talks never—really never—took place and you know that we immediately presented all these complicated talks with the Slovak side at news conferences and there is nothing secret in it. I have to explain this in a very complicated way everywhere, even for example in my own Civic Democratic Party deputies' club in the Czech National Council or in the Federal Assembly. I have no choice but tell my own deputies that there is nothing confidential, that they could hear it all at a public news conference. And so, the government's intention is not to conceal things. [passage omitted]

Slovak Parliament Approves Government Statement

LD1507194592 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1730 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Deputies of the Slovak National Council have adopted the policy statement of the Slovak Government and thus given a vote of confidence to Meciar's cabinet; 104 deputies voted in favor, 14 voted against, and 17 abstained.

Meciar Responds to Slovak Debate

LD1507183292 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1303 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Speech by Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar in Slovak National Council in response to debate on government policy statement—live]

[Excerpts] Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, esteemed Slovak Parliament.

During the debate almost all deputies from the Christian Democratic Movement, almost all from Egyueteles, and some from the Party of Democratic Left took the floor and when the members of the government and representatives of the Movement for Democratic Slovakia [MFDS] were to speak, you took this right away from them by voting. Thank you, it is a display of democracy.

With regard to the government policy statement which we put forward to you, it is materially based on the results of the elections. The issue of attitude to the policy statement is an issue of willingness or unwillingness to respect what the citizens decided on in the elections. The citizens decided to give their confidence to the Movement for Democratic Slovakia and decided in a way that they approved the program which we put forward to them. The government and this movement took over this program, and is responsible for the citizens of the Slovak Republic and its members.

The elections themselves were a highly democratic and internationally recognized act, and therefore the government views with incomprehension the activities of some political parties and movements and their representatives which throw doubt on the results of the elections, do not want to respect them, call for early elections or throw doubts at MFDS voters as though people who voted for this movement were inferior. The value and importance of their votes is the same as that of citizens belonging to other parties and the same as that of voters in the Czech Republic. Any invective and doubts about the elections show a poor attitude to democracy, and a failure to understand democratic mechanisms. Therefore, this government rejects and opposes speculations that the change of events in Slovakia could be achieved in a non-democratic way. [passage omitted]

This is a period of difficult tests of abilities, tests for the republic as a state unit, of citizens' maturity, and the abilities of politicians—and you are those politicians, you here in this room. I do not know any others in Slovakia. You, together with the government, bear the responsibility for the next development. I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the government policy statement cannot be an encyclopedia. It is a document and a collection of theses which the government pledges to carry out, but you will assess it. The relations between the Parliament and the government have not been resolved by the policy statement, but, do excuse me for saying this, but you have been criticizing us for some things and have been putting on our shoulders tasks which are in fact your responsibility.

The position and tasks of the government proceed from the current constitutional and legislative system and it is not possible for the government to pledge to undertake tasks which are not in its power. [passage omitted]

Esteemed deputies, give Slovakia wise laws! It has a wise government already! In this unity we can achieve mutual benefit and prosperity! [passage omitted]

Slovakia must implement certain extremely urgent measures. The first and fundamental one is self-identification, the kind of self-identification and self-determination regarding ourselves. We must first understand ourselves, our demands, what is called a nation-state's interest of the Slovak Republic and all its citizens.

This understanding will then be used to interpret Czech-Slovak relations and above all Slovak-European relations. We have witnessed unusual, worldwide changes. I can say that this is not just the demise of the communist society, but that a new civilization is emerging. [passage omitted]

Esteemed deputies, the path of this struggle for adaptation, understanding, survival, self-identification in the future has only just become open by invitation. It is an invitation which we must pick up.

The changes necessitated by this process are not on a superhuman scale. They are on technical, technological and organizational scales. [passage omitted] The electronic age has arrived. We will either adapt to these trends or condemn ourselves to backwardness. [passage omitted]

I was listening very carefully today, and I heard many wise views, but here and there I heard also a malicious undertone. It is clear to me after today's session what is the fate awaiting the parliament in the coming period and what the polarization of forces will be. I know only one thing: After the addresses of the deputies of the Christian Democratic Movement [words indistinct] only one thing is certain: In the fatal moment for Slovakia there is no certainty about you. You cannot be relied upon. To satisfy political interests, you will try to mortally attack any opposition party. This is not good.

I regret that we must also express a similar negative assessment to those taking part in discussion from the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement.

If we speak about party interests in a discussion, let me speak about these party attitudes in greater depth.

I was glad to hear the views of all representatives of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement and of Egyuetteles. They have said nothing that was not in their program. There is a basic difference between their programs and ours, and we did not find many points on

which we both agree. Allow me to explain what is our view on the discussion here, and also on the future.

We mainly do not agree that the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement or Egyutteles are representatives of the national minority. It is the state that is their representative. The state, with the power of its laws and all its structures, must guarantee, protect, and develop the interests of national minorities, not a party or political movement. Let me tell this to you also because Hungarians, citizens of Hungarian nationality, are also in other political parties like the MFDS and the Party of Democratic Left, they are equal and esteemed deputies and they also act in the interest of the Hungarians, and we equally respect and esteem their views. This is why we want to develop this basic premise and to create bodies in the structure of the state which would guarantee, develop, and enrich the rights of minorities. [passage omitted]

With regard to the issue of national minorities, why should we not put the issue in such a way that the national minorities we have in Slovakia would create a bridge to Budapest instead of separating us from Budapest? If there is an ongoing discussion, let me speak about the comments on, for example, the issue of language. If we say in the government policy statement that the government will pay attention to the teaching of the Slovak language, we say this because it is a duty proceeding from international law and because we respect citizens of Hungarian nationality. I am sorry to say this, but after the discussion when you were rejecting these ideas, those deputies who were attacking them do not—in my opinion—like the Hungarians. They do not like them because in a situation when a free labor market is being set up and people are to have the possibility of free movement and of gaining job opportunities, you want to take away from them the opportunity to learn to speak the language which is spoken in this country. If you want such an isolation, then you objectively harm them.

We will develop and protect the opportunity for teaching and advancing the teaching of the Hungarian language. International norms say that it is either teaching in a language or teaching of a language. We told ourselves that we will apply the stricter norm—teaching in a language, but at the same time there must be also the teaching of the Slovak language, as an unconditional part of the curriculum in all Hungarian schools.

None of this is against the interests of minorities.

Permit me to speak about another issue. We talk about and guarantee peace in nationality relations, and we guarantee respect to minority nationalities. If someone threatens the citizens of southern Slovakia that we want to move them away from Slovakia with a 40 kg knapsack, that they will be pushed beyond the Danube, such a person is inciting nationalist hatred, there are laws about it, and we will insist that they are applied against such people. [applause]

If we speak about the issues of the position of nationalities, the right of everybody is respected and guaranteed to freely claim to be of any nationality, and he must not suffer for it. A Hungarian citizen is an equal citizen of the Slovak Republic. He was born to a mother who spoke a different language, but he is above all a citizen of the Slovak Republic, and this is the basis from which we have to proceed.

With regard to the rights which have been discussed, there is above all a guarantee for the development of national culture, education, and the right to information.

Permit me, esteemed deputies from Egyuetteles and of Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement, to express a certain concern when looking at your program targets. We are concerned that, for example, Mr. Laszlo Dobos made a very wise speech here about irredentism, condemned it, and expressed his feeling of belonging together in such beautiful words which I perhaps could not find today—I will remember this speech forever. I respect Mr. Dobos for that view, but I do not understand why today there are unilateral demands to set up an autonomy. If the aim is self-administration, it already exists. If the aim is a territorial autonomy I do not understand, what is the aim, how they imagine it. We are concerned about this, furthermore, since we know that these proposals will be initiated from Budapest; I am not saying that you do this on order from Budapest, but to say the least, none of you protested against the appeal made by the Foreign Committee of the Hungarian Parliament addressed to Hungarian citizens in Slovakia, which incited them to create territorial autonomies.

We cannot ignore this. Please understand that we see our minorities as our citizens, but we must see them through the prism of the interests and politics of the Hungarian Republic, that there are politicians there who say, yes, today territorial autonomies, in two to three years we will demand the annexation of the territories. These views exist, are published and documented. This is why I ask you to understand that the agreement between us must be based on mutual understanding. [passage omitted]

We now consider the resolution of the relation between the state and the churches, all churches, to be very important. This relation needs to be resolved through mutual agreement, through respect for the churches, respect for the freedoms of the church members. Such an agreement could be concluded within a year, if the churches concede to it.

Second, we consider it important to resolve the financing of church activities. I cannot tell you today whether this will be by church tax, contributions, or state budget participation. But all those issues could have been tabled last year. [passage omitted] We consider it to be important to deal again with church property matters and to come to a just settlement. The debate on the issue has started. The issue is not finalized, but it will be.

Now for the criticism on the issues concerning state administration. We do remember that the policy statement of the previous government said that the changes in the central bodies of the state administration, in local government and self-government, would have to be carried out by 30 July 1991. As a result of recalling me [from the post of premier], pursuit of this task ceased, the Slovak National Council shelved the task until 31 December 1992, and the task has not been accomplished up to now. If we set out with great energy today to cope with this task, it is not because we have invented it. It is a task that has been lagging behind for more than a year now. If we reduce the number of central bodies today it is because we acknowledged their futility a year or two ago. [passage omitted]

As for the timetable, we should resolve the structure of central bodies by the end of 1992. In 1993 we should solve the issues of state administration, self-government, and regional administration [uzemne konanie] so that we can then go into elections with all new structures prepared already.

The timetable is clear. I only ask you for a matter-of-fact consideration and patience. It is a laborious task we are faced with and the one that you did not accomplish.

Pardon me for saying so, but I find it very difficult to accept your concepts of state and constitutional relations. When we were assessing which aspects of Christiam Democratic Movement [CDM] policy we should adopt, we had to ask a question: What is the CDM policy? I do not know, because if I consider the pronouncements of its representatives and its policies, then except for monarchy, you stood for just about everything. [laughter, mild applause]

Now we seek starting points. I am able to acknowledge with gratitude, yes, the CDM were advocating confederation before the MFDS did. Yes, the CDM adopted my view on a state treaty, but it was the CDM that developed it into a political program, which took the shape of a state treaty with the Czech Republic. And if we are setting off to implement this, and if the only thing you can do is to criticize us, then tell me, what do you stand for?

As far as state and constitutinal relations are concerned, then the criticism leveled at us is regarded by us as unjust and incorrect. Would it not be better if you helped us, would it not be better if we united our positions? Let's not say that you have thought out a new cure, because for all your views you must have a partner in Bohemia. But excuse me, today you have no one there. [laughter, applause] So, have a chat with one another, (?look ahead, but you will solve nothing anyway). [applause]

There is yet another matter I should like to dwell on. It is the issue of screening, and you were critical of this government in this context. I do not understand why it is the Christian Democrats who single out this problem. For me, the past is a question of ethics, of conciliation, and of ending disputes and rows. I do not understand why you foist it onto the new government as a political problem. Are we to continue in what you were doing? There were two criteria. On the one hand there were good communists and good StB [Secret Security] members; they were on your side, while the others, the evil ones were in all other parties. [applause] [passage omitted]

As far as the smear campaign leveled against our talks with the Civic Democratic Party [CDP] is concerned—and this is what upsets me most—I do not regard it as objective. The main point is that the MFDS and the CDP negotiated as two political subjects, as the parties that scored the best results in the elections. I do not know who else should have been present at these political negotiations. Since the importance of these talks is subject to some slander, allow me to briefly sum up their results, because what is publicized is everything else except the outcome of the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Mr. Deputy Chairman, tell me, which Slovak political representation since 1918 has attained such political results? [applause] Let us know if you find better ones. [applause]

We have started another process during which we said that the results of this process do not belong to us, they belong to all the parties, that is why further deliberations will be conducted in National Councils and their Presidia. [passage omitted]

As to the question of the relations in Czechoslovakia, they have an outward aspect, as well as and internal one. Above all, I should like to assure those Christian Democrats who say that we will be in international isolation; I have assurances from 12 or 13 countries of West Europe that if the division of Czechoslovakia is conducted in a democratic and peaceful way, Slovakia will be acknowledged equally with the Czech Republic, and normal and regular relations will be developed with us. There is no threat of international isolation. [applause]

You said that this is a problem which will last for years, but the MFDS has solved it in three weeks.

The second question, on membership in international organizations; the Council of Europe, in case of division, will examine the acceptance of both republics again in the Council of Europe, and each republic has to demonstrate the ability to adhere to democratic principles, and the ability to support and promote the development of national minorities, to sort out mutual relations in a civilized way. If these conditions are fulfilled, the Slovaks will be equally accepted in the Council of Europe, maybe concurrently with the Czech Republic. As to being accepted by the European Communities, it is a more complicated process, but the association agreement may mean either development toward two agreements, or division of rights and duties on the side of Czechoslovakia. We guarantee peace, respect for international pledges, and adherence to international pledges; we do not envisage quantitative change if two subjects

emerge in Czechoslovakia. This is how it is accepted in the world. Today we have this assurance from all the significant states—I mean all of them: Do things in a civilized and peaceful way and we will accept it. This is being said both by the President of the United States as well as premiers of European powers. So, please, let us not frighten anybody about Slovak international isolation.

This outward aspect also involves the basic question of Slovakia. If today Europe is being redivided and there are new interest and trade groupings of other states, what is the role of the Slovaks in this newly-born Europe? Will we be integrated directly, be equal in relation to the other states? In that case we must be subject of international law; or if we do not wish this, then we must come to terms with the role of a region of Europe instead of a state entity. There is no other alternative.

This is the basic question, ladies and gentlemen deputies, which you have to answer by the end of September. There is no getting away from it. It cannot be postponed any longer. The decision must be made. The discussions which are being conducted in clubs or on a one-to-one basis where you still are observing the former stereotype of debating state-administrative relations—all that is gone, that does not exist any more. The development has taken a completely different direction and it has a completely different dynamism.

Concerning external relations, it is necessary for us to look into the possible alternative if in the case of the division of the state, market relations should deteriorate, to look for a new market scope. We have assured the Czech side that we would not take any steps which would stop a single truck on the way from Slovakia to Bohemia. We will not do this; it is not our intention! We have to reckon, on the other hand, with the possibility that some [of our] products are rejected and we have to look for export markets elsewhere.

Speaking about our relations with the Czech Republic, I am glad that the elections meant the end of the former two-faced policy of the Czech Republic. When I say two-faced, I have a specific thing in mind: On the one hand there was the face of a kind of a father of the nation, graciously bowing to Slovaks, understanding and respecting our needs while the wise advice of an elder was being given to us on what we could or could not do; and on the other hand there was the policy of an aggressive attack on Slovakia and its representatives when the country [Slovakia] as a whole was presented as fascist, anti-Semite, as one striving for a split, as being separatist, nationalist, and I do not know how many more such adjectives were attached to it!

I have held talks with representatives of the state or from the Czech Republic, and I was horrified when I learned the contents of a secret report which the Presidium of the Czech government was discussing, on the basis of which retaliation was being planned against Slovakia. This is not friendship! This is hostility and bare struggle for survival! The steps there are almost racism, planned racism. If anyone on the Czech side does not like this, if they do not find enough courage in the new government to distance themselves from those stands of the previous government, then the government of the Slovak Republic, which has discussed this secret report, thinks that it has the right to tell the world, let them know that an exodus of Romanies to Slovakia was planned, and what steps against Slovaks living in Bohemia had been planned in the case of division. Let them know who wants to put up barriers at borders and border crossings, who is planning steps which would in fact lead to the break-up of the life of this republic!

If this in fact was the case, then we are upset by it because we trusted and felt friendship toward many partners who were involved in debating this document, and we were astounded by the inhumane character of this document. Slovaks never wanted anything like that! We do not want to move families anywhere. We do not want to punish anyone in Slovakia merely because he is a Czech. He has to enjoy the same rights as Slovak citizens. Why this was the thinking in the Czech Republic, this is not clear to us!

As for the issues of this report, I should like to point out that there are also certain positive aspects. It contains an assessment of what the losses connected with exports from Slovakia would be. We look good. If we shift to European prices, then in the case of most commodities the prices would be one and a half to five times higher than today with the volume of exchanged goods unchanged. That was the only positive thing we found in the report.

Allow me also to point out that the policy of Mr. Klaus and the talks with him are cruelly sincere. Cruel from the point of view of urgency and the imperative content and speed with which the changes are being presented, and sincere because there is no maneuvering. The barriers and alternatives for acceptance are given. The Czech representatives gave us two alternatives: You will either accept the federation unconditionally and once and for all—so no such thing as the CDM's year 2000 and the claim that they needed a postponement to be able to consider the matter—and if we accepted immediately they were willing to continue to live with us and discuss with us how to live in a slimmer federation; or else we would not accept and then, in their view, there is but one road and that is the creation of two states. Two states immediately. [passage omitted]

Thus, esteemed deputies, the Czech side has accelerated the entire process, we cannot say that it has initiated and provoked it, that would not be fair, but the time to make decisions is ours now, yours, ladies and gentlemen deputies! If you are proposing some kind of a loose federation, confederation and so on, for this we have no partner in Bohemia today. Even some representatives of parties which we call left-wing admit the possibility of the state division by 5 October, that is, by the end of

term in the office of the president. They are not interested in having this process toward the final stand [definitne stanovisko] continue any longer than 31 December 1992.

In one of my speeches I have said that we were not ready for this. Allow me to clarify this: No preparations at all had been made in Slovakia to create our own currency. Today, preparatory work is in progress. We have to be ready for such an alternative and the government is working on this. No measures had been taken in Slovakia to calculate the flow of goods from one republic to the other in real and price terms and the settlement in the case of a possible clash of interest. Today this is being done. We have not had a alternative market for export of goods if the Czech market should be closed to Slovak producers, but today we are starting talks on this. This is a test of our self-confidence in our strength, this is a process in which you have to make wise, resoponsible and long-term decisions—the government will make this decision-making process easier for you. But when you have criticized us for not deciding for you in our policy statement, we cannot do that, that is a matter for a legislative body.

From this point of view of the adoption of the constitution, declaration of sovereignty will always be [changes thought] also in the Czech Republic, even if it does not declare sovereignty but only adopts the constitution of the Czech Republic (? with) a president, as we propose a Slovak president; and they want to do this before the Slovak Republic does so [sentence as heard]. This is a process which is developing and it is necessary to react to it. Do weigh things up as to whether, in relation to such a historic moment, and to such responsible steps, we can afford petty squabbles, hostility, politicking, and various subjective interests. Stay parties as you are, with your own interests, but I appeal to you, in every nation when such historic points are arrived at, there is need for unity; where people split the end is bad.

We are striving to survive in new times! Let us have a common political interest! Let us at least in this fundamental single matter say jointly, or at least in a majority: Yes. Let us not stand for ever against each other, let us be united and decisive! [applause]

This is a period of difficult decision-making for you, it is period of difficult decision-making for us. Being a cabinet member is not easy. Quite some time ago I held separate discussions with each of these people to the effect that one day, after the elections, they would be cabinet members—and they can confirm it; with Mr. Minister Cernak we agreed a week after I was recalled, he knew already then that he would be a minister of economy. [applause] These relationships did not develop because we would be getting ready for these posts, but because we were getting ready for very tough and responsible work. I implore you, let's help each other. You are a legislative power and the government represents an executive power. If we coordinate these two functions and these two powers, we will be able to say that Slovakia will have a sophisticated, cooperating, and prosperous state administration.

Allow me to dwell on some doubts voiced here. I do not know what gives rise to them. For Slovakia there is no alternative to market economy. The countries of the western democracies, in developing the market, have several models. We are acquainted with the U.S. model, the British one, the Japanese, the Swedish, the German, and the Austrian one. We have the possibility to select something positive and considerably demanding either out of these models or out of each of them, or to say that we are taking the model of one of these states and applying it to our conditions, which will make it possible for us to restore relatively soon the entire legal system and the entire social system which we can thus, within a short period of time, transform to our conditions and thus reduce the time difference which these countries underwent through long-term development of knowledge before they arrived at this model [sentence as heard]. We have offers from Austria and Germany saying that they are willing to give us their knowledge. We are not the only ones left, but we must decide what to do. We can implement one or the other variant.

Next, allow me to say in this situation something about social policy. Such stress on social relations and social policy was not made because we want to invent social democracy. It was born due to the situation existing in Slovakia. Let us openly admit that statistics on the number of unemployed do not tell the truth. They completely excluded people partially employed or employed part time. The number of lost opportunities is large and it will continue. We have under way an objective process of transition in post-industrial society which excludes people out of production and sends them to the tertiary sphere; this is objective. At the same time, the process of switching from one form of ownership to another is under way, and economic life as a whole is being transformed. At the same time, a process of social overemployment is under way, as the opposite to these movements are leading toward reducing labor productivity. If labor productivity grows alongside the reduction of the number of employees, then we can say that values will be created from which we can support the unemployed. But if the process is reversed, if labor productivity falls, we must observe that this country can cope with these social relations; to cope means to give bread, provide heating to houses, provide at least these guarantees for the poorest ones. Today, 10.4 percent of families with several children have found themselves on the borderline of poverty. [passage omitted on situation of families]

We cannot avoid these questions. There are people who are rich and are getting richer and we are glad we have them, if they are not rich we will all be poor, but the number of poor ones is increasing and there are a lot of them. People cannot keep emigrating. They must live here, they must find opportunities to work here. In this

connection I should like to draw the attention of gentlemen deputies from Eguytteles and the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement: The hungry stomach of a Hungarian is just as hungry as the stomach of a Slovak. [passage omitted]

Dear deputies, ladies and gentlemen, those who wanted to find something positive in our 38-page policy statement found it. Those who did not want to find it there would not find it even if it were on 200 pages. It is a matter of goodwill, willingness to respect the result of the elections. If you like, you can express mistrust to the government. I am asking you the question: Have you a better one? If you have it, do it, but you have not got it today. [applause]

That is why all those who are sitting in this government are in it with the knowledge that they are setting out on an unknown journey, a journey full of obstacles, both from the work and personal points of view. They have all gained courage to set out along this path. There are also people in the government whose wages were greatly reduced in comparison with the past. I addressed a large number of people asking them whether or not they were willing to work in government posts. [passage omitted]

I am asking you yet again, even you who do not like Meciar, please, recognize that this republic needs peace, good administration of public affairs, good relations of the Parliament and the deputies, it needs unity and a reliably and harmoniously functioning political system. The disputes of the past two years cost us a lot. We cannot afford to continue in this fashion. Please, give trust to this government. The citizens have already given their trust to it. [applause]

Meciar Views Slovak Government Policy Debate

LD1607005492 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1630 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladmir Meciar by correspondents Magda Pospisilova and Alica Bielikova on 15 July; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] [passage omitted] We asked Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar to give us his view on the two-day debate in the Slovak parliament on the policy statement of the Slovak Republic. [passage omitted]

[Meciar] The time schedule for implementation of the government's policy statement is four years. The policy statement, as it stands, is valid for every alternative of the state set up. It will not be fundamentally changed. The state set-up can only change the order of steps. The decision, however, is not in the government's jurisdiction. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You also mentioned the so-called secret report of the Czech Government, although the Czech side said more than once through Prime Minister Klaus or ex-Prime Minister Pithart that such a secret report did not exist or that they were not aware of it. You used rather strong words that you were shocked by the inhumanity of this document. Could you tell us more?

[Meciar] I never claimed that this document was adopted by the government of Mr. Klaus. It, however, is not important what the prime ministers are called, documents remain. If the government of Mr. Klaus does not agree with it, then it would be right if it distanced itself from it. On all levels of decision making activity of the Czech Republic, this document describes what is to happen on D-day: what in 24 hours, what in 48 hours, what in a week, a month, in three months, and what to do afterwards. The steps described there are not steps toward a civilized division of a state and are not steps toward future cooperation of two such civilized nations as the Czechs and the Slovaks. It considers measures against the Romanies, against the Czechs living in Bohemia, against the Slovaks who want to travel to Bohemia, and that is not humane. The extent and the intention was so surprising for me and also for the other members of the government that we were shocked that in the 20th century somebody is able to think in these categories, and some steps remind me of South Africa. To consider a mass deportation of Gypsies from the Czech lands to Slovakia on the occasion of the division of the state is racism. And there are also other elements of economic, social, and labor suppression for appurtenance to a nation. This should not exist in the 20th century. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, you carefully followed the whole debate. It was repeated, and what has been often mentioned in connection with the criticism of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, that the slowing down of the transformation process is possible and even that there could be a return to socialism if the state interferes in the development of the economy and that the planned economy is again a threat. [Meciar] Who could have vested interests in spreading these lies? Privatization will continue and we want to see it speeded up. Privatization, however, will not proceed in such a way that unjustified property advantages will be gained by people who do not deserve it or for the price of a clash with a law. We are preparing for the government two materials in which we want to abolish projects already approved. Those affected will not praise us for it, and will be shouting that we are for socialism. We are only for justice and lawfulness. Who else is angry with us for it? There are various groups of businessmen; there are people who fulfill their duties toward the state honestly and pay taxes. There are people who avoid taxes and impoverish the state. Why should it pay to be dishonest toward the state? The state must take measures that people who so far have been violating the law and the interests of the state pay their taxes as they should. And the state must ask for taxes from people who can afford them. Naturally such people shout: Bad times are coming, this is socialism. No. This is lawfulness and a normal, and just relation between the businessman and a state. The state must protect him and help him and he

must contribute to the state according to his ability and circumstances because it is his state as well. This is a difference. Such views come from these extreme groups.

Further, there is an attempt to discredit Slovakia abroad, to throw doubt on the social aspect of the government program. They say what is social is socialist. However, we identified ourselves in our policy statement with the tradition of Cyril and Methodius. And the best social program which I have seen so far was the encyclical of Holy Father John Paul II (?Tentisimus Annus), and he certainly cannot be suspected of such things. We take the basis for our theory from his work. [passage omitted]

Tuchyna on Slovak Interior Ministry Changes

AU1507093992 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 11 Jul 92 pp 1,3

[Interview with Slovak Interior Minister Lieutenant General Jozef Tuchyna by Peter Kuchar; place and date not given: "...Not Only Personnel Changes"]

[Text] The Interior Ministry has always been considered one of the most important departments. Being in charge of the Interior Ministry meant having control over a powerful apparatus that could be used for party purposes. We do not have to go too far back into the annals of history—let us simply recall the activity of the Federal Interior Ministry during the past two years. A non-party member and a soldier, Lieutenant General Jozef Tuchyna, until recently commander of the Eastern Military Command, heads this department in Slovakia. We were interested in what we could expect from him in this role.

[Kuchar] What is your assessment of the situation in the department you inherited from Ladislav Pittner? Several of your government colleagues have complained about their predecessors....

[Tuchyna] Complaints will not help me. This department has undergone constant partial changes during the past two years. Establishing a constitution and sovereignty will mean fundamental changes in it. If we proceed from the agreements reached by the victorious political parties, it is clear that the border police will transfer to this department. This is an understandable expression of the republic's sovereignty. The agreement states that civil defense will also transfer to the republics' jurisdiction. The agreement and the civil defense military regiments will probably come under the jurisdiction of the Slovak Interior Ministry. We have to establish a full-fledged comprehensive defense system in Slovakia. Obviously, certain defense tasks will be transferred to the republics' jurisdiction. In order for the ministry to cope with all of this, some of its current components will have to be transferred elsewhere. These considerations are also enshrined in the government's policy statement and it will be our task to tailor the policy statement to the department's conditions.

[Kuchar] The deputy ministers at the Slovak Interior Ministry have been recalled as have the deputy ministers at all the other ministries. Will there be other changes?

[Tuchyna] Personnel changes are continuing as people who worked closely with the former minister are leaving. For example, we are transferring the head of the minister's office to the Police Academy at his own request. Former Deputy Minister Bencur is leaving the ministry by mutual agreement. Deputy Minister Michalko will remain in the department and activity suitable for a police officer will be found for him. All the other personnel changes are related to the ministry's new organizational structure. It is also apparent from the policy statement prepared for the Slovak National Council that the ministry will be composed of a political part, that is, the minister, his office, and the state secretary and of the ministry's specialist components. As new ministerial components will be constituted, the personnel issue will, obviously, have to be dealt with. At the moment, I do not envisage changes in the ministry's current specialist components. Changing the specialist components while changing the political leadership can only be detrimental.

[Kuchar] Will you check whether state administration employees are really specialists?

[Tuchyna] Fundamental changes will be made in state administration during the course of next year. This means it will also have a new structure. It would be ineffective to carry out checks at the moment, because we will select people for the new organs by open competition. However, I do not envisage that the civil administration sector will remain in my department.

[Kuchar] Does this also concern the police?

[Tuchyna] We are currently establishing a Police Academy and are filling the posts there by continuing the competition procedure. I have already approved the composition of the competition commission. The situation is more complicated in the actual Slovak Police Force. We have to train the specialists ourselves as we cannot get them from among the "civilian" population. For example, if we train a police financial team, we cannot talk about selection, but rather about the specialized training of police officers.

[Kuchar] Your predecessor suspended police recruitment because of a lack of funds. What is the situation today?

[Tuchyna] The situation has not changed. The budget has remained the same. The last decision made by the government even cut the departments' budgets by 10 percent. The cuts will not affect wages and social contributions. We are looking for ways to save this 10 percent. However, my view is that if we want to set up specialized units, for example, a police financial team—the finance minister insists on this and I agree with him—then the Finance Ministry has to provide the money for it. We also have to find a way to improve the police force's

equipment, even under the current financial situation. If economic crime is being committed and the state is losing huge amounts of money, why would the police force not be materially interested in uncovering such crime? The issue does not involve handing out bonuses to police officers, but being able to purchase technology. I want to assert this in the government. The republic's economic situation is not good and I do not think we will have a bigger budget next year, I am more inclined to think we will have a smaller one.

[Kuchar] The police force has been undergoing reorganization for two years. What is your opinion of this?

[Tuchyna] It is necessary to suspend the reorganizational changes in the police force. We have to establish the structure that has been approved. The existence of a Police Presidium proceeds from the law. The question now is how to incorporate it into the ministry's system, because all the ministries will have a single structure. It is necessary to put the finishing touches to the Presidium's structure, to establish it, and—finally—to guarantee its ability to function. We will create a single Slovak Interior Ministry logistics operation, including an operation for the Police Presidium. We want to economize on people there and send more into active service.

[Kuchar] You will be a civilian as of September. You are neither an active politician nor a deputy. Have you a back door in case...?

[Tuchyna] I took up this post with the conviction that I will execute it for the entire period the government is in office. Of course, this does not depend on me. Changes may be made. I think this government is capable, given good leadership, of remaining in office for the entire electoral period. I have not left any back door open. Although I will stop wearing my army uniform by 30 September, I am not leaving at my own request. I am leaving the Army on the basis of a Federal Government resolution. The resolution can be changed.

[Kuchar] How do you envisage cooperation between Slovak police organs and Czech and federal ones?

[Tuchyna] There must be cooperation between the Slovak and Czech police forces. The Federal Interior Ministry will have, first and foremost, a coordinating role and the execution of jurisdiction will transfer to the republics. We have to cooperate closely in border areas, but also elsewhere. We will certainly find a common language.

[Kuchar] So, the federal police units will cease to exist?

[Tuchyna] Execution of their duty will transfer to the republics. That is, there is no justification for the existence of these units. After all, the unfortunate interventions they made in the past merely confirm this.

[Kuchar] Apparently, you now make 2,000 korunas less than you did at the Military Command....

[Tuchyna] As far as I am concerned, that is not the most important thing. I was never interested in how much money I got. Nevertheless, this is true. I have found out that, according to the new salary system for state employees, the interior minister earns less than the commander of a military command.

Refugees Refused Entry, Officials Explain

LD1507150192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1509 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Subotica, Yugoslavia, July 14 (TANJUG)—The Hungarian authorities on Monday and Tuesday sent back from the railway station in Kelebia (on the Yugoslav-Hungarian border) 15 refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina bearing valid passports issued in Belgrade.

The refugees are now once again in the accomodation centre in Palic, near Subotica, a town in the extreme north of the Serbian province of Vojvodina.

This is the first time Hungary has turned back refugees from former Yugoslavia without prior notice, the Red Cross in Subotica has said.

All the passports were marked with a triangular red stamp bearing the word "rejected."

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD1507210292 Budapest MTI in English 1713 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Budapest, July 15 (MTI)—"Negative reactions" have so far not been received by the Hungarian Foreign Ministry through diplomatic channels in connection with the decision which introduced a stricter procedure in border crossings from Croatia, as from Tuesday, Foreign Affairs Spokesman Janos Herman told MTI on Wednesday [15 July].

At the same time, several official requests have been made for precise information regarding the Budapest decision.

Through its ambassador in Zagreb, Hungary has asked for detailed information from Croatia in connection with the declaration made on Monday, whereby the south Slav republic will not receive any more refugees, and will direct the refugees already there to third countries. No answer has arrived to the Hungarian request about the circumstances of implementing the Croatian decision.

In answer to MTI's question, Herman confirmed that Hungary and Austria will propose the creation of so-called security zones for refugees on the area of the former Yugoslavia, at the prime ministerial conference of the so-called Central European Inititative (the former Hexagonale) to be convened in Vienna on Saturday.

The fact that Croatia and Slovenia will, according to plans, become full members of the regional cooperation organization at the conference will provide a good opportunity to submit the joint proposal, Herman said.

'Valid Travel Papers' Required

LD1507193492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1715 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Budapest, July 15 (TANJUG)—Hungary will no longer receive refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina sent on from Croatia without valid travel papers, said Istvan Morvay, secretary of state at the Interior Ministry.

Minister Morvay described Croatia's decision to organize the sending of refugees from the war-battered former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina to Hungary as a rough step, the Hungarian press wrote on Wednesday.

Refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina should be taken care of primarily by the country of asylum, which is Croatia in this case, said Morvay. He deplored the decision of Croatian authorities, all the more because "Croatia will no longer receive even the refugees who wish to return from Hungary."

Official Hungarian figures indicate that four thousand refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina have arrived in Hungary over the past fortnight and have mostly been accommodated in refugee camps in the south.

Stricter Monitoring Implemented

LD1507200292 Budapest MTI in English 1837 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Budapest, July 15 (MTI)—Hungary has not sealed its border towards the southern Slav republics. At the same time, people arriving from there will be more strictly screened, and individual judgment will figure far more prominently in their cases—the Refugee Office told MTI on Wednesday [15 July].

The above was emphasized in view of the fact that the stricter border crossing procedure introduced by Hungary from Tuesday towards Croatia was occasionally interpreted abroad as the sealing of the borders by Hungary.

Individual judgment means that the reasons of those arriving in Hungary will be more detailedly examined in the future.

In accordance with the international norms, the main reasons for receiving people in the country include the request to be recognized as a refugee under the Geneva Convention, or if the case in point involves family reunification. Under the Hungarian practice, no-one is turned back to areas directly afflicted by fighting, although the Geneva Convention "prescribes" personal threat to be a consideration when determining the refugee status.

The Hungarian basic principles in the matter of the southern Slav crisis include that Budapest does not wish

to assist mass relocation aimed at changing ethnic proportions. In this context, Hungary insists on the international practice that refugees should first and foremost be cared for by the primary receiving states. In the case of those fleeing Bosnia-Hercegovina, this obligation mainly falls on rump Yugoslavia and Croatia. This explains the Budapest decision, whereby only persons with valid travel documents can enter Hungary from Croatia, in the wake of Zagreb's declaration that it will not receive any more refugees and will direct those on its area to third countries.

The Hungarian Refugee Office has contacted the Croatian officials with respect to the Zagreb Government declaration. On the basis of what is known so far, it seems that Zagreb has not taken any practical steps apart from the declaration to actually send on the Bosnian refugees staying on its area.

No reliable information is available, however, press reports estimate that some 300,000 Bosnian refugees are in Croatia at present.

Statistics on Average Wages in May Reported

AU1507115092 Budapest MTI in English 0856 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Budapest 13 Jul (MTI)—Gross wages averaged 21,639 forints in Hungary in May, the Central Statistical Office reports.

The survey was compiled on the basis of figures at companies employing more than 50 people, excluding budgetary organizations and agricultural branches.

Blue-collar workers earned 17,030 forints and white-collar workers 32,501 forints on average.

In the physical sphere, average wages were the highest—32,308 forints—in banking services, followed by the chemical industry with 26,877 forints and mining with 21,189 forints.

The respective figures for white-collar workers were 56,251 forints in banking services, 45,030 forints in the chemical industry and 35,355 forints in the timber, paper and printing industry.

The lowest-paid manual job—11,851 forints—was in the textile, clothing and leather industry.

Statistics Office To Store Data on Compact Disc

LD1507181192 Budapest MTI in English 0726 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Budapest, July 15 (MTI)—The Central Statistical Office (CSO) is to modernize its data management and storage system. The database of the 1990 census, for instance, will be put on a single compact disc.

The census covered 10 million people and three million households. With traditional methods, the figures will be published in 40 volumes, in five years. On a compact disc, the information corresponding to 400 mbyte [megabyte] or 135,000 printed pages may be made public in two years, for a fragment of traditional costs. The compact disc will guarantee easier access to information.

The CSO was the first in Europe to introduce this technology. The project was funded by the United Nations and supported by Australian experts.

The Hungarian experience will be transferred to the statistical offices of other countries. The related cooperation agreement was signed in Budapest in May by Yves Franchet, director-general of the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat), and Gyorgy Vukovich, CSO president.

Under the Phare programme, Eurostat provides support for the establishment of a market-orienteed statistical system in Hungary in five years.

Suchocka Proposes Reforms in Army, Troop Cut

LD1507125792 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 1100 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka has brought Janusz Onyszkiewicz to the Ministry of National Defense today. The basic elements in the reforms that the head of government plans to implement are as follows: the division between the Command and the civilian administration of the Army; the integration of the General Staff; and the even disposition of troops in Poland. The Army, according to the Constitution, will be under the president's command. Prime Minister Suchocka has said that the Army will be cut down to about 250,000 soldiers.

Solidarity Denounces Force To Solve Problems

LD1507172792 Warsaw PAP in English 2129 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Gdansk, July 14—The Presidium of the National Comission of the Solidarity Union believes that "the deteriorating situation of miners requires quick actions", according to a statement issued during a debate held in Gdansk on Tuesday [14 July].

The Soldarity's authorities stressed that they "see no possibility for a dialogue with unions headquarters, which accept and use force as a form of trade unions activity"

The statement said that Solidarity, while rejecting the use of force, "sees chances for the improvement of miners condition in lawful actions".

The presidium of the Solidarity's National Commission voiced protest against the planned liquidation of some railway lines which might cause a rise in unemployment.

Alliance Notes Concerns About Domestic Situation

LD1307213692 Warsaw PAP in English 1957 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Warsaw, July 13—The All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) voiced "deep concern over the current social and political situation" in Poland in a statement issued on Monday.

The statement notes a sharp increase of bankruptcies which aggravate the already bad financial condition of workers.

The OPZZ "firmly backs the justified protest of the copper basin workers and actions by the political forces aimed at undertaking talks to solve Polands conflicts by means of dialogue and a basic change in the economic policy", the statement reads.

Finance Ministry Official Details Foreign Debt

LD1507191892 Warsaw PAP in English 1718 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Warsaw, July 15—The foreign debt incurred by Poland's communist government in the 1970's is currently trading at 27 cents to the dollar in Western secondary capital markets, and the price could rise to 45 cents by the end of the year, if the new government successfully reaches agreement with the London Club of Commercial Creditors on debt rescheduling, the Ministry of Finance announced on Wednesday [15 July].

Ryszard Michalski, director of the Ministry of Finance, said that, as of June 1, Poland's total indebtedness to its Western creditors was 45.5 billion dollars. Of this, 29.1 billion is owed to the members of the Paris Club of government-guaranteed lenders, and a further 11.3 billion to the commercial banks of the London Club. The balance is owed to countries outside the 2 clubs, principally to the former Soviet Union and other countries from the former Soviet bloc.

Michalski explained that the figures did not take account of the 30 percent debt reduction agreed earlier this year with the Paris Club.

He added that the U.S. investment bank Salomon Brothers International is believed to have bought 1-1.5 billion dollars of Polish debt in the secondary capital markets during the last 3 months, at prices ranging from 17-19 cents to the dollar. Salomon Brothers has also recently issued traded options relating to Polish debt.

Michalski noted that interest in the purchase of Polish debt had recently pushed up the price to 27 cents to the dollar. If agreement is reached with the London Club, this could be expected to rise to 40-45 cents, he said.

Inflation Slowing Down, Unemployment Rises in June

LD1507165192 Warsaw PAP in English 1800 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Warsaw, July 14—Consumer prices rose by 1.6 percent last June compared to May, according to data released Tuesday by the Main Statistical Office (GUS).

Compared to December, 1991, consumer prices were higher by 22.4 percent. In the first half of 1992 consumer prices rose by 40.9 percent compared to the same period of last year.

Prices of consumer services grew the fastest, with food items showing the slowest growth. In the first half-year they were higher by 26.8 percent compared to the first six months of 1991.

There were 2,296,700 unemployed in Poland at the end of June, GUS reported. This represented 12.6 percent of the workforce, an increase of 2.4 percent compared to May.

Compared to June, 1991, the number of jobless grew by 45.9 percent.

The average gross pay last June amounted to 2,782,000 zlotys (CA. 210 dollars) and was higher than in May by CA. 2.9 percent.

Import-Export Activity With FRY Suspended

AU1507194492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1546 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 15/7/1992—Romania's Government asked for the approval of an exception from the embargo on Yugoslavia for certain objectives raising problems in its application.

The talks held until now at the Committee for Sanctions concerning Yugoslavia have emphasized that the two Romanian commercial companies "Solventul" and "Comtim" in Timisoara do not meet the requirements for such an exception.

Taking into consideration that situation, asserting once more the determination to strictly observe the sanctions of the Security Council, Romania's Government has decided that any import-export activity be suspended between the Romanian commercial companies "Solventul" and "Comtim" and Yugoslav companies till a definitive resolution of the Committee for Sanctions concerning Yugoslavia.

Taking into consideration Romania's losses caused by the observance of the sanctions, the government expresses its hope and confidence in the peaceful settlement of the problems that had led to that embargo so that it might be raised as soon as possible, reads a communique sent to the ROMPRES news agency to be released.

Melescanu Discusses Moldovan, FRY Issues

AU1507194892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1629 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 15/7/1992—At the July 15 news conference, Teodor Melescanu, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the measures convened for the cease-fire in Transdniestria have been observed until now in the whole conflict area, except for the town of Tighina where the guardsmen units refused to obey the orders and continued their aggressive actions against that town's police station. Thus a tensed and insecure state is maintained which puts the entire cease-fire action under a question mark.

In connection with the attempts to set up an international military force to maintain peace it was announced that contacts to that end continued, but there are also some intentions that such forces be formed exclusively within the CIS' limited framework.

Mr. Teodor Melescanu stated that there are no reserves on behalf of Romania as concerns the support granted to the Republic of Moldova to ensure its territorial integrity and independence. Romania's Government expresses its full availability to develop brotherly relations with the Republic of Moldova as far as possible in the present conditions.

The secretary of state also asserted that no element could prove the fact that the Romanian minority in Yugoslavia would be submitted to an official discriminatory policy and that a major conflict would exist between it and the other ethnic populations. It would be possible—he admitted—that small local conflicts exist somewhere, but one cannot speak about their generalisation. If such a problem raised, the secretary of state said, Romania would promptly take action to settle it peacefully, politically.

In connection with the nomination of the new Yugoslav prime minister and government, Teodor Melescanu appreciated that the new elements in the political life of the new Yugoslavia were of the nature to relaunch the dialogue and to open prospects for the cessation of the armed conflict.

Moldovan Envoy on Latest Developments in Dniester

AU1507154692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1045 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 15/7/1992—Answering the question "what do you think about the results of the interviews held in Moscow between Presidents Mircea Snegur and Boris Yeltsin and the foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova," Aurel Danila, the ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Bucharest told the daily REALITATEA ROMANEASCA: "I think that if something important had to be done to change the course of the bloody events in the eastern districts of Moldova, such an interview was necessary in the first place. Unlike in Istanbul, ways were approached in Moscow, for a peaceful solution, through negotiations, of the bloodshed on the banks of the Dniester. But the interview in Moscow is also important as the public opinion around the world learnt, equally on this occasion, the truth on what has been going on in the Dniester region and it could realize that the tragic situation in the military conflict zone has had aspects differing from what Moscow mass media and particularly OSTANKINO television channel has falsely presented. We have lost, in an initial phase, the informational war. Things are better today, and that is necessary for putting an end to the wave of lies of the separatists and the forces allied to them."

"What I want to say," added the collocutor, "is that sooner or later a cease-fire has to be obtained in the Dniester region, peacefully, through negotiations. Russia and Moldova cannot prolong an armed conflict without having the disrespect of the international public opinion. A war waged by Russia in a foreign territory, in the territory of an independent and sovereign state is a deliberate infringement of international law norms, a situation which can only be sanctioned as such."

"Of course," continued the diplomat, "our eastern districts need calmness now more than ever. Smirnov's separatists were glad when no kind of talks were held between Presidents Yeltsin and Snegur, when they only

informed each other on developments in the Dniester region. Now, when there is a peace plan, so to say, more and more agitation is being made by the separatists, who have been troubling waters to their advantage." Mr. Danila has concluded by saying that the democratically elected power bodies of the Republic of Moldova "will not permit for part of the country to be taken away. We are firm on the unconditional withdrawal of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Moldova," said Aurel Danila.

Supporters Oppose 14th Army Withdrawal

AU1507154792 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by Septimiu Roman from Chisinau]

[Excerpt] On 14 July, the situation was relatively calm in Tighina, where refugees were returning to the town, and a few enterprises resumed activity, correspondents are reporting from that region. However, after last night when the situation worsened suddenly because of intensive shelling by separatists that resulted in several deaths and injured, this morning many residents left the town.

It is being rumored that one of these days reservoirs with toxic substances will be blown up, and industrial enterprises in Tighina have about 100 tonnes of ammonia and about 40 tonnes of chlorine. An eventual leaking of these substances would end up killing at least 50,000 people, our correspondents in that area report.

The ideological system of separatists in Tiraspol, who are in complete agony, makes desperate attempts to artificially create tension on the left bank of the Dniester River, say Chisinau correspondents. For this purpose, Dniester separatist leader Smirnov and his acolytes started collecting signatures on an appeal to the Russian Federation leadership, requesting that the 14th Army should not be withdrawn from the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Just like many other such campaigns of organizing referendums and collecting signatures, this action is also carried out under pressure. In connection with this issue, the correspondent of MOLDOVA PRES learned from reliable sources that the initiators of the action of collecting signatures succeeded in collecting about 100,000 signatures through illegal means. This was possible only due to the active involvement in this operation of the representatives of the local bodies of the Smirnovist-power and mainly the sector militiamen.

We can give an example of the way in which the process of collecting signatures in the villages of (?Delacau), Krasnaya, and other localities in Grigoriopol Rayon was carried out: Here people were called in individually for signatures. According to reports, the representative of the self-proclaimed republic use every possible method in these localities to achieve their goals. [passage omitted]

PNL-CD Calls For 'Firmer' Moldovan Policy

AU1607075092 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 9 Jul 92 p 1

[Mircea Florin Sandru report on a news conference held by the National Liberal Party-Democratic Convention in Bucharest on 8 July: "The PNL-CD Is Not a Pocket Party"]

[Text] "The National Liberal Party-Democratic Convention [PNL-CD] believes that it is high time that Romania's foreign policy toward the Bessarabian issue became much firmer, I could even say intransigent, considering the danger posed by the attempts made toward creating a Russian-speaking state at the Dniester border" said Mr. Nicolae Cerveni during a news conference held on 8 July, at the headquarters of the party (176 Calea Victoriei). He said that "if the 14th Army continues to get involved in this process and in this struggle whose end we can all foresee, I can say, without erring, that Romania should react accordingly, not excluding military means either. It is impossible that we are acting through diplomatic means while the Russians are killing Moldovan citizens at our own borders." Answering further questions posed by journalists, Mr. Cerveni explained the PNL-CD position, saying that it is an extreme situation when all the other possibilities have been exhausted.

During their addresses, Mr. Vintila Bratianu, Maria Tetu, and again Mr. Nicolae Cerveni expressed the following ideas:

Romania should not tolerate a buffer state at its borders, a state that would certainly serve Russia's interests, and would take orders from Moscow.

On the issue of Bessarabia, due to certain serious mistakes of the political leadership that came to power after 22 December 1989, Romania has entered a dangerous game.

The situation in the Republic of Moldova has developed in this dangerous direction also because of the successive errors committed by the Chisinau leaders. The Popular Christian Democratic Front of Moldova is a political force that is worth taking into account in the efforts to find solutions to the situation in the Dniester area.

The PNL-CD rejects the affirmations of certain adversaries who say that this party is a "pocket party." Currently, there are 21 strong county branches being set up that are "stronger than the PNL," and steps are being taken to set up local branches throughout the country. The National Liberal Party (Campeanu) attempts to obstruct in every way the local PNL-CD branches. Nevertheless, they are being set up, and there is even a process of moving certain groups from the PNL to the PNL-CD.

For the time being, one cannot speak about a merging with the National Liberal Party-Young Wing (PNL-AT),

but this is not excluded after the elections are over. For the time being, given the internal problems of the PNL-AT, the Liberal Alliance formula is favored.

Terrorist Extradition Protocol Signed With Turkey

TA1507221192 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by Ali Dogan from Bucharest]

[Text] At the end of the official Turkish-Romanian talks in Bucharest, the two sides signed an implementation protocol, which will activate the security and cooperation protocol signed in Ankara on 28 April. The protocol was signed by Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin and Romanian Interior Minister Victor Babiuc. Accordingly, the members of terrorist organizations that have been declared illegal, like the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] and Dev-Sol [Revolutionary Left]—and those who sympathize with those organizations—will not be allowed to seek shelter in Romania or go to other countries via Romania. The protocol also guarantees the extradition of the said organization members to Turkey.

According to the protocol, one member each from the Turkish and Romanian intelligence organizations will be assigned to the other country. Moreover, the two countries will exchange every document, and all information concerning terrorist organizations. Turkey and Romania will also cooperate in preventing the smuggling of narcotics and other contraband, including historical artifacts.

In a statement, Sezgin explained that his government is trying to struggle against terrorism using democratic rules. Pointing out that the activities of the PKK and other organizations have been banned in Romania, and that their members will be extradited to Turkey, Sezgin declared that the cooperation between the two countries will yield the best results against terrorism. The interior minister said that as a result of the protocol, the PKK will no longer be able to seek shelter in Romania or go to the West through this country.

Babiuc said that terrorist incidents undermining the normal functioning of democracy will be stopped, as will those who perpetrate such incidents. Noting that the protocol will facilitate cooperation in the Balkans, Babiuc remarked that it will also enhance bilateral cooperation.

The documents on the Balkan Police Sports Union, which is being established through the initiative of the Romanian Interior Ministry, were also signed by Sezgin. Sezgin concluded his contacts in Bucharest and proceeded to Constance. He will return to Turkey tomorrow after meeting with Turks living in Constance.

Government Discusses Toxic Waste, Foreign Debts

AU1507154392 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1319 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 15/7/1992—Romania fully observes the embargo on Yugoslavia and there are no reasons to think there are fissures in its application, Premier Theodor Stolojan said at the weekly meeting of the executive calling on government decisionmakers to give a prompt reply to the distortions and disinformation cropped up, no matter where they come from.

The government also focused on measures to deblock frontiers in the wake of the application, often in an exaggerated manner, of the decision on a ban on the introduction into this country of substances that are harmful to people and to the environment. It was pointed out that a detailed list of the substances under the incidence of that decision would solve the situation and the need was stressed for minimal documents in the case of imports of chemicals by economic agents.

It was announced that the current situation of the waste fraudulously brought into this country as well as their nature and the sites where they were dumped would make the theme of a government report to be worked out before August 15 and to be further submitted to Parliament.

The premier also referred to the report worked out by the Ministry of Economy and Finance on the country's external debt and emphasis was placed on the fact that things were not too bright as far as the credits guaranteed by the state for the technological reequipment of economic branches are concerned, relevant in this respect being the backward stage of operations on the Turceni-Rovinari complex.

The executive also discussed and endorsed a number of normative acts.

Karadzic Sees Signs of 'Breakthrough' at Talks

LD1507133192 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1149 GMT 15 Jul 92

[By Gavin Cordon]

[Text] The leader of Bosnia's Serbs said there were signs of a breakthrough today at talks in London aimed at bringing peace to the embattled former Yugoslav republic.

Dr Radovan Karadzic told reporters after hour-long discussions with EC peace envoy Lord Carrington: "We have found some good signs that we are going to make an advancement. We are ready for an unconditional and long-lasting ceasefire. We are searching for a political solution," he said. "Now we are continuing with the talks. We are very glad we have resumed these talks."

Dr Karadzic added that he accepted the principle of land corridors for humanitarian aid in Bosnia-Hercegovina. An international airlift of supplies to the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo is already under way.

Lord Carrington is meeting leaders of the warring ethnic factions separately at the London headquarters of auctioneers Christie's to see if enough progress can be made to begin face-to-face discussions.

The former foreign secretary was later seeing Bosnia's Muslim Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic and Bosnian Croatian leader Mate Boban.

All three ethnic leaders were due to continue the peace process with a further round of meetings, this time with the Portuguese diplomat Jose Cutileiro, who is chairing the talks for the EC.

If the discussions are successful, the present round of talks could go on for two or three days.

Meanwhile Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was beginning a four-day visit to war-torn former Yugoslavia today. He is scheduled to visit Sarajevo and also hopes to meet the Bosnian president, the commander of the United Nations peace-keeping troops in the besieged city, and British servicemen and women with the UN troops.

Mr Hurd was flying to Paris tonight on his way to Yugoslavia to discuss the situation with his French counterpart, Roland Dumas. A Foreign Office spokesman said the French had "a wealth of experience" in such matters and pointed out that President Mitterrand went to Sarajevo recently.

Meanwhile, Britain and other EC countries today condemned the bombardment of the city of Gorazde and other cities in Bosnia by Serb forces. A statement issued in London on behalf of the EC said: "These brutal and indiscriminate attacks upon defenceless civilians are wholly contrary to the basic humanitarian precepts of international law." The EC called for an immediate end to such attacks and for urgent measures to relieve the suffering and deprivation of the population. The Yugoslav issue is likely to top the agenda at a meeting of the EC's foreign affairs council in Brussels on Monday which Mr Hurd will chair because Britain currently holds the EC presidency.

Boban-Karadzic Meeting Results Discussed

LD1507200592 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Report by Slavko Rako from Sarajevo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Goran Milic, director of the international press center, read a report by the Ministry of Internal Affairs at the beginning of a news conference today. The report refers to the meeting between Radovan Karadzic and Mate Boban held in the vicinity of Sarajevo at the beginning of July. According to this report, Boban and Karadzic agreed on the final division of zones of interest. Boban withdrew claims to the left bank of the Neretva and Posavina in favor of places in central Bosnia and Sarajevo up to Stup. Also, the two agreed that the so-called Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina would recognize the state of Croatians in Bosnia-Hercegovina in the near future, that confederal relations would be established between them with a possibility of contacts with their native republics, and that the population would be moved. The report also quotes Boban as having said that the Croatian Defense Council will no longer launch attacks toward eastern Hercegovina and that, in return, the Serbian forces will no longer attack places in central Bosnia with a majority Croatian population.

Journalists were also able to hear recordings of meetings between Radovan Karadzic and Bozidar Vucurevic [leader of the Serbs in Hercegovina] during the war in Croatia, during which the two were making arrangements about attacks on the area around Dubrovnik and on the town itself. [passage omitted]

Leaders Offer Cease-Fire Talks With EC Mission

LD1507194792 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1814 GMT 15 Jul 92

["Pool" item]

[Text] Herceg Novi, July 15 (TANJUG)—The Government of the Serb autonomous region of Hercegovina on Wednesday [15 July] offered to negotiate with the European Community mission on a ceasefire on the battlefronts in Hercegovina and around Dubrovnik.

Its Prime Minister Milorad Bojovic said at a press conference that the Government had proposed the forming of an E.C.-sponsored joint commission, composed of representatives of Serb and Croat civilian and military authorities from Trebinje and Dubrovnik.

Bojovic said that the Hercegovina Army had never committed an act of aggression on the territory of the

neighbouring Republic of Croatia and that the Croatian side kept under occupation one quarter of the territory of the Trebinje commune.

The area of Trebinje—eastern Hercegovina's central town populated largely by Serbs—was bombed eight times over the past month, twice by the air force of Croatia.

The town and the surrounding area suffered major destruction by artillery fire from the direction of Dubrovnik.

Commenting on Wednesday's statement by Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic on the disarming of the Serb Army in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Bojovic said that he saw the call as the Serbian people's capitulation because it had not been addressed to the Croatian and Moslem Armies as well.

A bloody civil war has been waged in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina over the past three months between Moslems, who account for 44 percent of Bosnia-Hercegovina's population, and Croats, 17 percent, on the one side, and local Serbs, who make up 32 percent of the population, on the other.

Ganic 'Dissatisfied' With UNPROFOR Control

AU1507202492 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Interview with Ejub Ganic, member of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, by Dzevded Tuzlic in Sarajevo on 15 July—recorded]

[Text] [Tuzlic] Mr. Ganic, what was the main topic of the latest round of talks with Mr. MacKenzie and (?Jones Preston), representatives of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR]? Are there any new details that the public are not aware of, but perhaps give some hope for the resolving of the situation around Sarajevo—that is to say, regarding the artillery placed around Sarajevo and the airport, regarding [humanitarian] corridors toward Sarajevo and from Sarajevo, and so forth?

[Ganic] Well, it was more or less a routine meeting. We tried to make some minor advances, to again (?intensify) the supply of humanitarian aid to Dobrinja and Butmir. There are problems in Dobrinja; some outskirts of Dobrinja are being exposed to enemy fire; there are difficulties in supplying humanitarian aid to some parts of Dobrinja, and so on, [word indistinct] and we tried to resolve this. We also discussed [humanitarian] corridors and demilitarization of Lukavica, Dobrinja, and all the rest. These are mainly the [word indistinct] where we achieved some minor progress. I do not know what else to say.

[Tuzlic] Are there any changes that will [word indistinct]?

[Ganic] Well, [word indistinct] it will be worked out exactly on what days the humanitarian aid convoys will head for Dobrinja, Butmir, and so on. That is to say, a regular schedule will be devised. Naturally, there are lot of problems connected with this. As you can see the artillery is not under control. We are constantly emphasizing this; we are not satisfied with the results that the UNPROFOR achieved in this sphere. Of course, there is also the issue of accommodations for the new UNPROFOR troops that are arriving. We are discussing the location, and [word indistinct] and how to organize it. There are plenty of [Tuzlic interrupts Ganic].

[Tuzlic] [Word indistinct] corridor for Sarajevo, was this also the topic?

[Ganic] No, this was not the topic because, as General MacKenzie said, he is not empowered to do this; therefore, we did not discuss this.

[Tuzlic] Therefore, we can conclude that the talks you just held did not considerably improve the situation for Sarajevo residents who have been detained for months?

[Ganic] Well, small progress was made regarding a more efficient supply of humanitarian aid, that is all. Naturally, certain details that are making life difficult still have not been resolved yet. Of course, we continue to protest that the artillery is not under UNPROFOR's control—we are repeating this. No major progress was made in this sphere for the time being; therefore, I am dissatisfied.

[Tuzlic] What did General MacKenzie say?

[Ganic] That he is trying, he is trying.

UN Spokesman on Success of Sarajevo Aid Operation

LD1507195592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1754 GMT 15 Jul 92

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, July 15 (TANJUG)—About 80 per cent of the population of Sarajevo, the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, have received food being flown in as humanitarian aid under the control of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force], chief UNPROFOR spokesman Frederick Eckhard said on Wednesday [15 July].

At a news conference in Belgrade, Eckhard assessed the relief operation as successful and said a record 23 humanitarian aid flights had landed at Sarajevo's Butmir Airport on Tuesday.

Fierce fighting has been raging for over three months in Bosnia-Hercegovina between its Moslems and Croats, assisted by regular troops from the neighbouring breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, and the local Serbs.

The uninterrupted fighting brought Sarajevo's population on the brink of dying from starvation, and the situation is not much better in many other parts of the republic.

Eckhard, who spent two weeks in Sarajevo, told reporters that "both sides" in the city were violating the ceasefire from "locations unknown to UNPROFOR." He did not explain, however, how he knew that both sides were violating the truce if the locations of the violators were not known.

Eckhard said that on the basis of the latest report by U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali a radar platoon and a helicopter flight would be sent to Sarajevo to locate the sources of the artillery fire. He said the helicopter contingent and radars would be operational by the end of the month.

The campaign against UNPROFOR in Sarajevo is gaining in strength, Eckhard said. Although he did not specify who was taking part in the campaign, Eckhard did mention the leading Sarajevo daily, OSLOBODJENJE.

OSLOBODJENJE, which is loyal to Bosnia-Hercegovina's Moslem-Croat authorities, was described by Eckhard as being biased in its reporting. He added that the Sarajevo media should be more objective in their reporting of the events there.

Categorically denying allegations that UNPROFOR personnel were behaving partially, Eckhard said that everything they were doing was done only after consultations with both sides.

Weekly Publishes 'Secret Plan' for Invervention

LD1607132592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1242 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Paris, July 16 (TANJUG)—Citing French military sources, the WSD [expansion unknown] Paris weekly published on Thursday [16 July] "a secret U.N. plan for Sarajevo" the preparation of which was, as set out, in the final stage, and its goal was to "neutralize Serbian cannon and tanks around Sarajevo and Dubrovnik."

This was—as claimed by the text illustrated with maps showing targets of the attack—a naval and air intervention, an alleged securing of "air and road humanitarian corridor to Sarajevo." The U.S., Great Britain and France were being mentioned as the participants in a—de facto—war against the Serbian forces.

The "secret plan" of the U.N. gave the key role to the Western naval forces, which, if what the Paris weekly says was true, threw a totally different light on the role the Western European Union and NATO vessels, which officially began on Thursday only naval control of implementation of U.N. sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

According to the first two variants, the intervention would be carried out by the French and U.S. airplanes and helicopters. As set out, the interventionists were already in possession of intelligence about the exact Serb positions thanks to the U.S. AWACS monitoring planes and the French helios spy satellite.

Should the need arise, the plan envisaged also sending in commandoes to the surrounding mountains to make additional markings on targets to be bombed.

Although the U.N. plan urged the smallest possible use of manpower in the intervention, nevertheless, a "third alternative" provided also for engaging some 1,000 commando troops. Their task would be, as set out, to "eliminate Serb snipers" which, as noted, were "a terror" for civilians and humanitarian convoys in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and especially in Sarajevo and around its airport.

Presidency Member Meets Red Cross on Safety

LD1307194492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1857 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Text] Sarajevo, July 13 (TANJUG)—Officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Monday [13 July] voiced readiness to resume their humanitarian activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina if the warring sides guaranteed them safety.

Over the past three months, Bosnia-Hercegovina has been a scene of bloody civil war between Moslems and Croats on the one side and local Serbs on the other.

The Moslem-Croat forces are backed by army units from neighbouring Croatia, another former Yugoslav Republic.

ICRC officials met with Fikret Abdic, member of the Bosnian Presidency in which Serbs are no longer represented by their legally elected officials, to request such guarantees from the Moslem side, adding that they would ask Bosnia-Hercegovina's Serbs the same.

The ICRC discontinued all activities in Bosnia-Hercegovina following repeated attacks on its convoys.

The Serb side said that its forces had never attacked International Red Cross convoys.

Abdic voiced a wish that the ICRC, besides providing humanitarian aid, be present in the most threatened areas, such as Gorazde, Foca, Bijeljina and Zvornik, and mediate in the exchange of prisoners.

Two Slovenian Boats Seized, Tension Increases

LD1507162792 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1516 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Ljubljana, July 15 (TANJUG)—Croatian authorities on Tuesday [14 July] impounded two Slovenian fishing boats which, the Slovenian media say on Wednesday, could start a row between the two states, until recently allies in the process of seceding from Yugoslavia.

The two boats, which belong to the Delamaris Canning Factory of Izola in Slovenia, were seized on the grounds of poaching in Croatia's territorial waters in the Adriatic Sea. The Croatian coastal police said in a statement that two other Slovenian fishing vessels fled from its patrol and returned to Slovenia via the Italian territorial waters. Although the fishermen of the impounded boats claim they were not poaching, the investigation so far proves otherwise.

The Croatian side is evidently determined to insist on the present sea frontier with Slovenia. The Slovenian media say that Croatia does not want to settle the oustanding issues between the two states by agreement, which, they claim, threatens Slovenia's statehood. The border dispute can leave several hundred independent and another 400 Delamaris fishermen out of job. Slovenian fishermen say they will protest outside the republican parliament on July 17, asking the government to honour its promise to take care of the fishermen whose jobs have been threatened with the delineation of a new sea frontier with Croatia.

The Slovenian Foreign Ministry has protested against the action of the Croatian coastal police, demanding an explanation and return of the boats.

Stedul Named HDP Presidential Candidate

AU1407084992 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 3 Jul 92 p 4

[Z. Zanko report: "Nikola Stedul—Presidential Candidate"]

[Text] Zagreb—By the decision of the Central Committee of the Croatian Statehood Movement [HDP], their candidate for president of the Republic of Croatia is Nikola Stedul, president of the party. The HDP will participate in the elections for both lists of parliament, while Stedul will also be the main candidate on the state list. In the part of the elections in which the candidates will be elected on a majority principle, the HDP will put forward its own candidates, but it will also support candidates it believes are in accordance with the state-creating program.

Nikola Stedul—an emigre since 1956, whom Vinko Sindicic, a mass murderer for the Yugoslav secret services (murdered 120 persons, including Bruno Busic) has tried to assassinate—has already spoken against elections being held while the war is continuing and parts of Croatian territory are still occupied. However, the elections have been called regardless of these two conditions, and the HDP is still opposed to them, as it holds that this might give the world community the impression that Croatia is abandoning the areas where there will be no voting, and thus give the so-called Krajinas a certain legitimacy. Besides, Stedul believes that it is indecent to spend money on campaigns while Croatia is still under attack, and national unity endangered. He claims that the calling of elections is a politically irresponsible act, which should disqualify those who have called them under such circumstances. There is no need for elections, and the explanation that they are required by the constitution is far too transparent. Instead of elections, Stedul believes, it would be much better to form a ruling structure that would comprise competent people regardless of which party they belong to. The HDP also believes that after the elections, and the liberation of the whole territory of Croatia, the most important issue is to form a government of national salvation, which will be comprised of people with statehood inclinations.

The HDP supports a parliamentary order, and believes that it is important that the structure of parliament should be changed in the elections in such a way as to prevent any party having extreme superiority over others. It does not oppose the regionalization of Croatia, but holds that the so-called Serbian districts are dangerous for both Serbs and Croats (more so for the Serbs), and therefore opposes their formation. The economic program of the HDP will be presented in the pre-election campaign. The election slogan of the HDP is: "Everything for Croatia—Croatia Above Everything."

Stedul is negative about the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] activities so far, and maintains that the events in the so-called pink zones [Serb-populated areas bordering on areas patrolled by UNPROFOR] are only a continuation of what the UNPROFOR has been doing all along, which is politically damaging to Croatia.

Republic Granted Observer Status in GATT

AU1507203892 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1700 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] The GATT Council in Geneva today decided to examine Slovenia's request for membership in the organization in a regular procedure, which will require several months of negotiations. The Slovene representatives will follow all GATT activities as observers during this period.

At today's session of the GATT Council, the Austrian representatives proposed that Slovenia be granted full membership immediately. However, the other countries felt that Slovenia should be admitted in a regular procedure.

Election Campaign Begins, Candidates Selected

92BA1181A Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 2 Jul 92 p 2

[Article by Vinko Vasle: "The Election Race Is Beginning With the Candidates for President"]

[Text] Each of the opposition parties is presenting its own candidate; in the previous elections, the parties with their own candidates had many voters as a rule; joint presidential and parliamentary elections.

Ljubljana, 1 Jul—The People's Party's announcement that it will nominate Dr. Stanko Buser as a candidate for the presidential elections is actually also the formal beginning of the campaign struggle in Slovenia. The opposition parties have also hurried, and in a few days they will announce the names of their own presidential candidates.

Although Defense Minister Janez Jansa denies the possibility of his entering the struggle for the office of state president, several people familiar with our political scene think that the publication of his book *Shifts* is actually a very direct indication of participation in the presidential race. It is also not yet quite clear who is supposed to support his candidacy, since one can hear predictions that the electoral system will be written to favor the larger parties. This, of course, would mean that even before the elections, ties would be formed among the smaller parties—both the parliamentary ones and those outside parliament. In this regard, some people are nevertheless also counting on a merger with the Social Democratic Party, of which Jansa is a member. In the first phase, the Socialists are also supposed to merge officially with Rastko Mocnik's Social Democratic Union, and later on that new party will also merge with Pucnik's Social Democrats. Bavcar's Democrats are flirting with Drnovsek's Liberal Democrats, but there is also a possibility of their forming ties with the Social Democrats. All these party-political changes and events should influence not only the parliamentary elections, but also the presidential ones, and in particular should influence who nominates whom as a candidate.

If the opposition parties have decided that in the presidential elections, at least in the first round, each one will come forward with its own presidential candidate, it is particularly because the last presidential elections confirm the thesis that the parties that had their own candidates for president of the Presidency, as a rule, also drew more voters behind them and consequently achieved better electoral results. The Socialists, who supported Milan Kucan in the last elections together with the Reformers, have also had this experience. Since the SDP [Party of Democratic Reform] profited in the elections because of the Reformers' candidate, the Socialists are not to repeat this mistake in the next elections, and in all likelihood will present their own candidate for president of the Republic. According to our information, Milan Kucan is to be the joint candidate of at least two parties, the Democrats and the Reformers. Janez Drnovsek is not supposed to intervene in the presidential campaign, and he abandoned that idea at the moment he agreed to assume the office of prime minister of the transitional government. The Liberal Democrats and Drnovsek, however, expect that the next ruling coalition will be such that Drnovsek will be able to keep the prime minister's desk in it.

Otherwise, in addition to the People's Party candidate, the names of the presidential candidates of the remaining three opposition parties are also known already. Also this week or at the beginning of next week, at a meeting of its political administration, the Liberal Party is supposed to nominate deputy Vitomir Gros as its candidate for the presidential elections. This was also confirmed for us by the party's president, Franc Golija, who thinks that Gros of course has a high reputation among the party's members, and is also a name very well known to the public. The Christian Democrats are to decide on Dr. Andrej Capuder, former minister of culture in Peterle's government, although there were also proposals for a candidacy by Lojze Peterle. The party, however, is expecting that after the elections Peterle could nevertheless return to the position of prime minister, and consequently Capuder's candidacy is most likely.

The National Democratic Party, which is headed by Dr. Rajko Pirnat, was concerned about the attractiveness of the presidential elections, in which at least six to eight candidates are supposed to compete in the first round. Although it is carefully protecting the name of its candidate, and Anton Tomazic was only willing to tell us that the candidate would be interesting and attractive; the party is supposed to promote him officially on Friday, but we were able to find out that it is not a male candidate, but a female one. The National Democrats will send one of their members into the presidential campaign, the chairman of the party's council and the mayor of the Ljubljana Center municipality, Alenka Slana-Zagar.

Although several parties, especially the Reformers, advocated having the presidential elections separate from the parliamentary ones, this will obviously not be possible,

since the constitutional law on holding elections says that the elections for the State Assembly and the presidential elections have to be simultaneous.

Ciril Ribicic said that they had advocated separating the two elections because simultaneous elections lead to polarization, since it is a classic majority system in which the candidate who gets a majority wins, moreover in the second round of elections. According to Ribicic, this would mean a polarization between "left" and "right" candidates, and lead to a conflict over who would win. On the other hand, it is certainly true that individual parties are proposing candidates not because they have realistic expectations of their election, but rather because it helps them in promoting the party for the parliamentary elections. This is demonstrated in any case by the People's Party's proposal and the announcements of the other opposition parties' candidates, at a time when we still have neither electoral legislation nor candidates for the parliamentary elections. Thus, the first round of presidential elections will, of course, be exclusively in support of the parliamentary elections, since the state president will only be elected in the second round.

Danijel Starman said that New Demos would not enter the presidential elections with its own candidate, but would instead decide after the first round whom to support. Otherwise, on the basis of the present current political-party and even ideological divisions on the Slovene scene, views are emerging that the presidential elections will also proceed in that style. Although the office of state president is more a ceremonial one, without particular state jurisdiction and powers, the battle for the presidential office between the left as it now stands and the right will be a bitter one. This would be bad, of course, since the presidential office, in spite of everything, is supposed to be above the parties, and the state president is supposed to be the representative of all citizens (not only those who voted for him), and a cohesive, i.e., unifying, force under the conditions of a large number of parties.

Vane Gosnik told us that the Greens Party has not yet discussed its own presidential candidate, and in his opinion, they will not have their own candidate.

Nevertheless, let us return to the National Democrats and to Anton Tomazic's opinion about why his party (like the opposition parties in general) decided on its own candidate.

"We decided on our own presidential candidate mainly because otherwise, Milan Kucan would be one of the main favorites again. He could even be the only candidate, if we did not take care of promoting opposing candidates in time. When we discussed this in our party, we quickly determined that we had a very serious and good candidate. We will make an effort to have people get to know him well, and consequently we will also promote him publicly with full seriousness—starting on Friday," Tomazic said.

International

Army Denies Aircraft Threatening U.S. Cruiser

LD1607134592 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1228 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Jun (TANJUG)—Following reports by some news agencies that a U.S. Navy cruiser has been threatened by aircraft of the Yugoslav Air Force, the Information Service of the Yugoslav Army General staff is authorized to announce the following:

"Not a single aircraft of the Yugoslav Air Force has flown beyond the airspace above the territorial waters of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The fact that the broadcasting of this news is based on suspicion rather than provable evidence testifies not only to the use of information as a provocation but primarily to the ominous set-ups which may result in very dangerous developments. We regard misconstrued accusations and agency-transmitted fabrications as a very dangerous model creating conditions for an escalaton of the confrontations in this region, while this way of instilling the public with such information and preparing it for an aggressive war option is highly recognizable.

Yugoslavia's Army has no interest in the provocations ascribed to it. However, in the event the country's territorial integrity is threatened, all the conditions will be met to defend it successfully.

Cosic: 'Cantonization' Only Solution for Bosnia

AU1607105292 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Rome, July 16 (AFP)—The president of the rump Yugoslavia, Dobrica Cosic, said in an interview Thursday [16 July] that the only way to end the fighting in Bosnia-Hercegovina would be to divide up the republic along ethnic lines in cantons.

"The only solution for Bosnia is cantonization, everything else is just rhetoric," he told the Italian daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA.

"People will stop fighting only after Bosnia and Hercegovina become a confederated state, divided into ethnic cantons, where the three communities can feel equally protected," he said.

"The cantonization of Bosnia would mean the formation of three national communities, which might become mini-republics," said Cosic, a historian who last month became president of the new Serb- Montenegrin state.

Cosic insisted his country was not involved in the ethnic and religious conflict in Bosnia, pitting the Moslem Slav community making up 44 percent of the population, against Serbs, representing a third, and Croats. "The only thing we can do," Cosic said, "is to exert political and moral pressure on the Bosnian Serbs so they will end this war and return to negotiating." But he added, "we can not forget that 25 percent of the Serb population lives outside of federal Yugoslavia. And we have a sacred duty to look after their national interests and their fundamental civil rights."

Cosic also said that as long as the European Community, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the U.N. Security Council "accuse Serbia and Montenegro of being responsible for the conflict, there will be no peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the war will cause an exodus of colossal dimensions."

Assembly Committees Discuss Expulsion From CSCE

LD1507151892 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1255 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, 15 Jul (TANJUG)—At the first session of the CSCE parliament at the beginning of this month in Budapest, strong pressure was exerted on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in yet another attempt to expel it from this newly formed institution. Advocates of the a "hard line" (so-called friends of Bosnia) failed in their attempt and as far as the Yugoslav delegation at the session is concerned, it considers this as its biggest success.

This conclusion was reached today at a joint session of the committees for foreign affairs and foreign economic relations of the Federal Assembly's Chamber of Citizens. It was also stated that the Yugoslav delegation's decision to attend the CSCE parliament session had been justified and had contributed to the efforts to paint a more favorable and more complete picture of the FRY and the processes currently taking place in the country.

A report about the Yugoslav delegation's participation in the session in Budapest was submitted by its head, Vladislav Jovanovic, Yugoslavia's new minister of foreign affairs. According to him, the failure by the hardliners to expel Yugoslavia from the CSCE parliament is a signal to begin to consider the possibility of defeating the blockade through parliamentary means, ie. within the framework of parliamentary cooperation primarily with the countries which at the meeting in Budapest did not succumb to pressures by those who advocated Yugoslavia's expulsion.

Jovanovic said that in Budapest, Yugoslavia was subjected to vicious attacks because of the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Yugoslavia was singled out as an aggressor and was solely blamed for what is happening in the former Yugoslav republic while at the same time the evident responsibility of others was ignored.

Yugoslavia was also exposed to pressure in the domain of ethnic minorities rights. Jovanovic stressed that some participants of the meeting in Budapest had talked about that problem in extremely inadequate and unobjective

terms. They actually talked only about the problems of minorities in Kosovo, Sandzak and Vojvodina, while they did not say anything about the same, if not more serious, problems in other countries. In that context, the problem of minorities was for the first time extended to Montenegro as well.

The head of our delegation at the CSCE parliament session said that the Yugoslav participants in the meeting had not been in a defensive position despite great pressures. The delegation was resolute and aggressive, especially when the problems of Kosovo and ethnic minorities in general were discussed. The delegation requested that the CSCE define its stand not only on ethnic minorities, but on possible misuses of the ethnic minority status, such as for example an attempt at secession is.

In the discussion at the committees' session, Oskar Kovac, a member of the Yugoslav delegation and the new federal vice-premier, suggested that the Federal Assembly forms a permanent delegation for cooperation with the CSCE parliament.

Members of the Committees for Foreign Relations and Foreign Economic Relations concluded that the declaration on Yugoslavia adopted by the CSCE parliament is unacceptable. Unlike that, the general CSCE declaration was assessed as acceptable with slight reservations.

Members of the committees were addressed by Sladjana Prica, member of the Yugoslav delegation at the last CSCE session in Helsinki. She said that Yugoslavia has not been expelled from the CSCE, the participation of its representatives at meetings of the institution has been suspended until 14 October. She also spoke of announced CSCE missions which are to visit Yugoslavia and said they represented an important channel in these circumstances for the continuity of cooperation and relations with CSCE. She presented a very comprehensive picture of the transformation of the CSCE into a tridimensional institution: Trans-Atlantic, Trans-Asiatic and regional security. She said that the CSCE was becoming an organization parallel to the United Nations through the creation of new institutions.

Federal

President Says Paramilitary Units To Be Disbanded

LD1407192192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1803 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Jul (TANJUG)—Paramilitary units cannot exist on FRY territory, President Dobrica Cosic said late this afternoon at a news conference in the Belgrade Sava Center. The new president of the federal government was replying to questions from journalists.

The news conference, which was attended by some 200 journalists from Yugoslavia and abroad, was chaired by the new federal Minister for Information Miodrag Perisic.

Replying to journalists' questions on paramilitary units, President Cosic said that he had been informed, mainly from the press, about groups of armed men who, under the existing laws of this country, will be prevented from operating on the territory of the FRY.

In reply to a question from a journalist of the Russian news agency, Cosic stated that he regretted that Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock today made a belligerent statement on the need for military intervention. I am sure, the Yugoslav president said, that his predictions of foreign intervention will not be realized.

Panic Offers 'Olive Branch' to Croatia's Tudjman

LD1407223692 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1831 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Jul (TANJUG)—FRY President Milan Panic said today that he invited Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to talks, met him, and offered him an olive branch. Tudjman was afraid there might be thorns on this tiny branch, Panic said at a news conference in Belgrade's Sava Center.

Panic also stressed that the Yugoslav Government is working on a peace initiative. The first message should be sent to the United Nations and the UN Security Council, thanks to whom I am in Belgrade, he said. We ought to address the United Nations and convince them that we favor peace.

We have been in constant contact with the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and we are constantly persuading them to cease fire, Panic stressed. If we manage to accomplish this goal, then we will be able to expect help in other spheres as well.

Our message for the Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina is: Do not open fire first. However, do not let them kill your children either, Panic told the media.

Premier's Inauguration 'Hailed' By Most Parties

LD1507191292 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1834 GMT 15 Jul 92

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, July 15 (TANJUG)—Most Yugoslav politicians and parties on Wednesday [15 July] hailed the inauguration of Milan Panic, a U.S. businessman of Serb origin, as the first prime minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Panic, who on Tuesday presented his programme in the federal parliament, listed as his chief goals restoration of peace in the territory of former Yugoslavia, lifting of

sanctions which the UN Security Council imposed on Yugoslavia on May 30, and economic recovery through privatization.

Only the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), the largest opposition party in the Serbian parliament, found fault with the composition of Panic's cabinet. "There can be no new policy without new people," and it is impermissible that most of the ministers have been forced on Panic by the ruling communists in Serbia and Montenegro, said the SPO.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was proclaimed on April 27 by former Yugoslav federal units Serbia and Montenegro, to ensure continuity of the federal state after four of the six republics—Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia—had opted for unilateral secession.

The SPO leadership was especially critical of Panic for appointing Serbia's Foreign Minister Vladimir Jovanovic to the post of federal foreign minister. "Sanctions against Yugoslavia were imposed when he (Jovanovic) headed Serbia's diplomacy," said the SPO.

The SPO insisted that Serbia's television channel two be made available solely to the democratic opposition, and that the visibility of the independent television Studio B should be spread to the entire republic. The Serbian opposition claims that it was defeated in last autumn's elections because the state-owned television and most of the press favoured the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia. For the same reason, the majority of opposition parties boycotted the federal elections in late May.

Dragoljub Micunovic, the leader of the second largest opposition party in the Serbian parliament, said he hoped the new prime minister would "justify the great expectations that the citizens of Serbia and Montenegro have of him."

Aleksandar Mitrovic, the outgoing acting deputy federal prime minister, said in his message of congratulation to Panic his election meant that the Yugoslav people had opted for peace, full freedom, democratic elections, recovery, and development, leading to a better future.

The secretary of the Indepenbent Trade Unions Federation, Dragan Radulovic, said his organization would help in every way an open and market-oriented economy, employment, and a decent life.

Businessmen from Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina said they expected the government to make radical changes in the economy, while businessmen from Montenegro hailed Panic's determination to work towards liftimg the UN sanctions. "With the sanctions, there can be no life," they said.

The New Communist Movement (NKP) naturally criticized Panic's economic programme, especially the part which relates to accelerated privatization. The party fears that Yugoslav industrial facilities and natural resources will be sold for next to nothing to foreign investors, and that the country will become "abonded slave of multinational companies, the International Monetary Fund and a handful of local capitalists."

Army Does Not 'Believe' in Possibility of Attack

LD1407170692 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1538 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, July 14 (TANJUG)—The chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army, Lieutenant General Zivota Panic, said in parliament on Tuesday [14 July] that he did not believe in a possibility of attack on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by NATO or the United States because it has never given a reason for this.

"The Yugoslav Army has neither its members, soldiers and officers, nor its planes in the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina," said General Panic.

On May 4, the Yugoslav Presidency ordered all army members, citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to leave Bosnia- Hercegovina by May 19. On April 7, Serbs proclaimed their own republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina in opposition to the secessionist policy of the Muslim-Croat coalition in the Bosnian leadership. Croats in Bosnia have also proclaimed their own republic, Herzeg- Bosnia, which covers around 30 percent of Bosnia-Hercegovina's overall territory.

Asked by reporters whether the Yugoslav Army would defend itself in case of a military intervention, General Panic replied that "the Yugoslav Army is prepared to fight against any aggressor." Asked why a defence minister was not proposed when prime minister designate Milan Panic presented his list of cabinet in the federal parliament on Tuesday, General Panic said that "it is not easy to find a civilian for the post of defence minister."

Milan Panic, a U.S. businessmen of Serbian origin, on Tuesday submitted the list of his cabinet of experts, which includes three deputy prime ministers and 18 ministers. Panic proposed that he, as prime minister, should also hold the post of defence minister.

Half of Defense Industry Located in Bosnia

LD1507213192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1854 GMT 15 Jul 92

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, July 15 (TANJUG)—Between 40 and 50 per cent of the defence industry of former Yugoslavia is located in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Chamber of Economy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) said today.

The majority of all defence manufacturers producing weapons and electronics are not controlled by the Serb Army of Bosnia-Hercegovina, experts say.

Eleven weapons and ammunition plants remain in territory controlled by the Moslem-Croat coalition, including one producing multiple rocket launchers and rockets, which is operating at full capacity, President of the F.R.Y. Dobrica Cosic said in an address to the Yugoslav Parliament on Tuesday [14 July].

Cosic also listed extensively the large quantity of weapons and ordnance that the former Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) left behind in Bosnia-Hercegovina and was taken over by the Moslem-Croat forces.

Also under control of the Moslem-Croat forces is the weapon plant in Travnik, central Bosnia-Hercegovina, once one of Yugoslavia's most important defence manufacturers which produces [word indistinct] artillery weapons. The importance of this facility is evidenced by the fighting between Moslem and Croat forces for its control two months ago.

The Croatian Defence Council (HVO), the supreme organ of authority in the Croats' state in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Herceg-Bosnia, which was formed on July 3, on Monday sacked and arrested the director of the steel mill in Zenica (central Bosnia) Ahmet Delic, a Moslem, under charges of "failing in the past period to deliver parts for the weapons plant in Travnik."

Military experts say the final assembly of armoured personnel carriers was carried out in factories in Sarajevo and its vicinity, most of which are now controlled by Moslems, who also control the Sarajevo firm Zrak, which makes various optical equipment and electronic sights for diverse weapons.

Croat forces also control the aerospace manufacturer Soko in Mostar, in Hercegovina.

The tank engine plant in Pale near Sarajevo is in the hands of the Serb Army of Bosnia-Hercegovina, but it remains unknown if it is operating, as it is located in a combat zone.

The Serb-controlled electronics firm Rudi Cajavec in Banja Luka, north-western Bosnia-Hercegovina, had no capacity for final assembly.

The manufacture OK Main Battle Tanks (MBT) in former Yugoslavia was realized with considerable involvement of subcontractors from Bosnia-Hercegovina, but the final assembly was carried out by the firm Djuro Djakovic in Slavonski Brod, in the breakway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia.

A considerable part of Yugoslavia's defence sector was during the communist regime moved from Serbia to Bosnia-Hercegovina. Heavy weapons manufacture was moved from Kragujevac, central Serbia, to Travnik, while MBT manufacture was moved from Mladenovac near Belgrade to Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia.

Serbia

Government Calls For Talks With Albanian Leaders

LD1407202992 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1807 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, July 14 (TANJUG)—A dialogue with ethnic Albanian representatives is the most effective way of overcoming problems of the Albanian national minority in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija but it has not been accepted by leaders of ethnic Albanian parties, the Serbian Government said on Tuesday [14 July].

The refusal by ethnic Albanian political parties and movements in Kosovo and Metohija to negotiate with Serbian authorities is a clear proof of their unpreparedness to deal with current problems in this province by peaceful means and through dialogue, the Serbian Ministry of Information said in a statement.

Ethnic Albanian parties want the province's secession from Serbia and Yugoslavia, proclamation of a republic and eventual joining to neighbouring Albania.

The parties, which have already held illegal parliamentary elections and proclaimed government bodies of the so-called Republic of Kosovo, have refused several invitations from Serbian Premier Radoman Bozovic to hold talks aimed at solving problems of national minorities in the province, inhabited predominantly by ethnic Albanians.

International law criteria and documents of international organizations do not grade the rights of national minorities dependent on their size in a state's territory, the statement said.

It went on to say that national minorities in some countries are even bigger than the Albanian minority in Kosovo and Metohija but they are neither seeking a change in their status, nor trying to bring it about.

The Serbian Government warned that involved in Kosovo and Metohija was not a violation of national minority rights but their reckless abuse and obstruction of the constitution and laws of the Republic of Serbia.

No country can occupy and annex parts of its state territory, said the statement in reply to the accusation of Serbia for allegedly annexing Kosovo and Metohija. It added that the region had been part of Serbia since the end of Turkish occupation.

The statement rejected ethnic Albanian charges that Serbia was carrying out changes in the ethnic composition of Kosovo and underscored that the biggest exodus of Serbs from the area had taken place over the past 50 years under the pressure of ethnic Albanian separatists.

Kosovo

Peace Conference Deputy Chairman Meets Albanians

LD1507205592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1720 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Pristina, July 15 (TANJUG)—Deputy Chairman of the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia Thierry de Bauce on Wednesday [15 July] held talks behind closed doors in Pristina with representatives of the political parties which rally ethnic Albanians in the Serbian province of Kosovo-Metohija.

The hosts' delegation was headed by Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo (DSK), the biggest ethnic Albanian party in the province.

All De Bauce's contacts with ethnic Albanians so far have been held behind closed doors, but Wednesday's meeting, held as a "working lunch" organized by the hosts, is different in that no statement about it is expected to be issued, as signaled by the DSK information service.

De Bauce followed his meeting with the ethnic Albanians with talks with Vice-President of the Serbian Parliament Vukasin Jokanovic from which a statement is to be issued.

The ethnic Albanians are a national minority in Yugoslavia and Serbia, where they enjoy all national minority rights they are entitled to under the Yugoslav Constitution and international regulations. However, they are seeking for themselves the status of a nation and that of a republic for Kosovo, which would allow them to secede from Yugoslavia and merge with neighbouring Albania, an objective they openly proclaim.

Rugova returned today from a one-day visit to Tirana, where he met with Albanian President Dr Sali Berisha and received treatment accorded heads of state.

Macedonia

Petar Gosev Proposed as New Prime Minister

LD1607003192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1442 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, 15 Jul (TANJUG)—The Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia [Socijaldemokratski Savez Makedonije—SDSM] today proposed Deputy Petar Gosev as prime minister-designate of the new Macedonian Government. Gosev has to present the government's composition to the Macedonian Assembly within 20 days. For its "approval," 61 votes are needed in the parliament.

Since the SDSM has 31 deputies in total, the prime minister-designate and the party began consultations with the other parliamentary parties today.

It has been acknowledged that a possible coalition would comprise the Albanian parties, the Party for Democratic Prosperity of Macedonia [Partija za Demokratski Prosperitet Makedonije—PDPM], and the National Democratic Party [Narodna Demokratska Partija—NDP], with 23 deputies, followed by the Reformists with 18, the Socialist Party of Macedonia [Socijalisticka Partija Makedonije] with six, and the Party of Yugoslavs [Stranka Jugoslovena] with two deputies.

The VMRO-DPMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity], the party with the majority of deputies, did not succeed in securing a sufficient number of votes for a coalition, so the SDSM got the mandate.

Party Withdraws Mandate for New Government

LD1407100492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0119 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Skopje, July 13 (TANJUG)—The VMRO-DPMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian Unity], the party with highest number of deputies at the Sobranje (assembly) of Yugoslavia's former Republic of Macedonia, has desisted from putting forward its mandate for a new government and returned the mandate to Macedonia's President Kiro Gligorov.

Last Tuesday [7 July], Macedonia's parliament voted its lack of confidence in the government of Nikola Kljusev, an independent, by reason of Macedonia's having not yet been recognized internationally. In protest against the E.C. attitude towards Macedonia, Macedonia's foreign minister, Denko Maleski, resigned.

Last December, Macedonia asked from the E.C. to be internationally recognized, but Greece opposed that, considering that the republic of Macedonia could lay territorial claims to Greece's region of the same name (the Aegean Macedonia). The E.C. inclined to the Greek stand.

The VMRO-DPMNE, an extreme nationalist party in Macedonia (in its name mixed are the notions of "Revolutionary Organization" and "Democratic Movement," the DPMNE meaning "the Democratic Party for Macedonia's People Unity"), a government it could propose would not be in a position to collect the 61 vote required in the republic's assembly, the VMRO-DPMNE said in an announcement today. The VMRO-DPMNE proposed to Macedonia's Social Democratic Alliance to jointly form a coalition government, but the social democrats did not accept that. So, the most represented party in the Sobranje returned the mandate, the announcement said in conclusion.